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NATION IS DESTINED TO EXPERIENCE HIGH SPEED INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY

This Will Continue This Year, and Possibly Next Year Unless War in Europe Should Suddenly Collapse and Come to an End.

However, That Which Hangs Over Business As a Cloud Must Be Dispelled by Logic of Future Events, Growing Out of Problematic Issue of Present War in Europe—Collective Bargaining Policy is Balance Wheel, and is More and More Voluntarily Adopted as a Means for Avoiding Interruption in Production.

By Labor News Analyst

This country of ours is so vast in territorial extent; so varied in climate, and so diversified in industries, that only a bird's-eye view can hope to be presented in anything like a brief categorical summary. The present time, mid-February, however, presents a fairly-defined, composite picture to the mind of the analyst and commentator, with regard to those phases of business which have emerged from the potential into the concrete and actual. After all, it is on accomplished "facts" and not theory that present appraisements, or reasonably accurate forecasts, of the immediate future may be based.

And, first, the industrial situation:

We are one of the few nations not immediately and physically embraced in the world-wide European conflict. At the same time, our future course in politics, industry and finance will be governed largely, and perhaps dominantly, by what occurs on the other side of the Atlantic. We are now arming with feverish speed, not only for ourselves, but for aid to Great Britain, which is generally conceded to be playing the part of Horatio at the Bridge, in the face of the overwhelming enemy. That fact, alone, makes it more than certain that this country will have a period of high-speed industrial activity, for this year and possibly for the next year or two to come; that is, unless the war in Europe should suddenly collapse and come to an end.

IF HITLER SHOULD PASS OUT?

The extinction of Hitler from the scene might, very reasonably, put the German nation (not the war control party) in a position to demand a cessation of their limitless war of conquest. Were this so, and war to cease

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Large Gathering Expected at Hearing on Labor Relations Act

Maine State Federation of Labor's Bill for Law to Conform With Federal Act to Be Heard at State House Thursday at Two O'Clock.

Adoption of This and State Wage-Hour Act Would Definitely Aid in Preventing Labor Disputes and Disturbances, Says Federation's Legislative Agent in Urging Affiliated Unions to Be Represented At Hearing.

Quoting from an editorial which appeared in a recent issue of the Bangor Daily Commercial, stating that 565,000 workers were involved in 2480 strikes, causing the loss of about 6,500,000 man-days since the National Defense program was launched, and which resulted in a serious loss of production, Legislative Agent Charles O. Dunton, in announcing the hearing at which will be discussed the State Labor Relations Act sponsored by the Maine State Federation of Labor, next Thursday, March 13th, writes as follows:

"The Maine State Legislature is urged to give favorable consideration to L. D. 522, providing for a wage-hour board, which is the result of a recess committee study of conditions in Maine. Also L. D. 573, for a State Labor Relations Act, promulgated by the Maine State Federation of Labor.

"The Maine State Federation of Labor believes that the passage of these two bills, each supplementing the other, will definitely aid in preventing labor disputes and labor disturbances in this State of Maine. Very careful consideration should be given these measures, their provisions, the beneficial as well as the harmful effects which may be anticipated, before acceptance or rejection is determined upon."

This, in a measure, makes a plausible answer to the Bangor Commercial and a strong argument in favor of the passage of these two legislative measures—the purpose of which affords protection not only to working people employed in intrastate commerce, but employers as well.

TWO VITAL MEASURES

In placing these two acts among the most important measures in its 1941 legislative program, the State Federa-

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CIO Organizer Fails in Effort to Steal Clothing Workers' Union Operating Under A. F. of L. Charter

Efforts of an organizer for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union (CIO) will be fruitless, according to the unanimous vote of members of the American Federation of Labor union employed at the plant of the Portland Overall Company, now negotiating an agreement with Leo Golodetz, owner.

It is strange how some of these organizers get around after an A. F. of L. union has won the bargaining right for employes and are negotiating an agreement with the company.

Delegate to the Central Labor Union, talking with the CIO organizer, learned that he was coming to Portland two months ago to "completely organize the industry" here, but his excuse was, "I missed the train".

It was amusing to the C. L. U. group to hear this flimsy alibi. In checking with railroad time tables, it was found that trains do run oftener than once in two months. In fact, several trains a day arrive at the Union Station from all parts of the United States.

Although Maine was mentioned as not being part of the U. S. in a Presidential election some years ago, trains, buses and airlines still make regular stops here. The verdict is very much against the defendant. Undoubtedly he will not have to wait two weeks to get a train out of Portland.

Stricken With Illness While Engaged in Ford Organizing Campaign

Word from Boston yesterday was to the effect that John J. Murphy, New England representative of the American Federation of Labor, who was op-

JOHN J. MURPHY

erated upon in Detroit three weeks ago for appendicitis, is convalescing at his home in Boston, and that hopes are entertained he will be able to resume his duties within a few weeks.

Assigned to work with Frank P. Fenton, director of organization for the Federation, who is conducting the Ford organizing campaign in Detroit, Mr. Murphy was stricken with appendicitis and operated on the day following his arrival, and shortly after, the first

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Hollingsworth & Whitney Plant In Waterville Organized With More Than 1000 in Two Locals

Representatives of Two Brotherhoods and State Federation Accomplished Feat Which for Many Years Had Proven Most Difficult Task—Pulp and Sulphite Local Will Eventually Embrace 750 Employes and Paper Makers' Local Will Reach 250 Members.

Bucksport, Me., Mar. 5—We have finally succeeded in organizing the Hollingsworth & Whitney plant in Waterville. At a meeting on Sunday evening, March 2nd, a new Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers' local was organized, with the following temporary officers elected: Carl Fogg, president; Clyde Chaney, vice-president; Joseph Mathieu, recording and corresponding secretary; Joseph Caron, financial secretary; Mr. Roundy, treasurer; Joseph St. Peter and Fl Roberge, guards; Merle Weed, Joseph Libby and Leon Pilon, trustees.

The organization will be known as Taconnet Local and will be one of the largest in the State. It will eventually have about 700 members.

International Vice-President Fred Morris presided at the meeting and there were ten members from the Madison Local, two from the Brewer Local and myself, from Bucksport Local, in attendance. Mr. Connors from Madison Local, spoke briefly on organization, and Harry Van Wort, of Brewer Local, told of the union in his plant. The writer gave a short talk on Organization and the workings of the State Federation of Labor.

Work on organizing this Local was started last Summer by President B. J. Dorsky of the State Federation of Labor, and myself. We spent a lot of time and effort there, making contacts and endeavoring to get the men interested in unionism. Vice-President Morris then took over the work and really did a very good job in organizing as this had for many years been considered the hardest plant to organize in Maine. Mr. Morris deserves a lot of credit and should be congratulated for the fine work done there.

There is also a new Local of Paper Makers in the same plant. Organizer and Vice-President Frank Barry has spent some time in organizing members of this craft, and at their meeting last Sunday evening, they had over 250 members. President Dorsky covered that meeting while I attended the Taconnet, local meeting.

We all join in congratulating these boys in Waterville and wishing them much success in their organization.

LEO J. ASHEY.

A. F. of L. Organizer David Taylor Is Speaker at Mass Meeting Sponsored By Local Unions in Portland District

David Taylor, general organizer for the American Federation of Labor, was the principal speaker at a mass meeting of delegates representing all A. F. of L. unions in the Portland district, on Thursday evening, February 27th.

Plans were outlined for an intensive membership campaign to cooperate with National Defense. Horace E. Hove, president of the Portland Central Labor Union, presided, and David Hastings, secretary of the Central body, acted as secretary of the meeting, which was sponsored jointly by the State Federation of Labor and the C. L. U.

Among those present at the meeting were Hyman Erlick, vice-president of the C. L. U.; Alexander F. Eagles, business manager, Electricians' 567; Philip Hanley, president, Building Trades Council; President Sam Ferrante and Roscoe Gerrish, Ft. Handlers; John DiPietro and Nick Guisti, Hod Carriers and Construction Laborers; Alfred Martin and John McNeill, Painters; Kenneth Laughlin and Secretary Martin Thony DiPilippo and Harry Adamson, Journeymen Barbers; William Levecque, business manager, Plumbers and Steamfitters; Howard Hutchins, Retail Clerks; Howard Bagley, Iron Moulders; John Foley, Structural Iron Workers; John Kitchen, organizer, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and Philip Clemente and Robert Rossi, secretary and president, respectively, of the Cannery Workers' Local; John Russell, business manager, Moving Picture Operators; Frank C. McDonald, Street Carmen and Motor Coach Operators' Division 714; Philip Pallacia, sergeant-at-arms of the C. L. U. representing Hod Carriers' Union.

Organizer Taylor, regarded as one of the best Labor speakers in the New England district, made a strong impression on all present, who are ready to lend their cooperation in making the proposed campaign a success.

C. L. U. Auxiliary's Third Annual Supper and Dance April 26th

Hundreds of members of Portland trade unions are looking forward with much pleasure to the coming supper and dance sponsored by the Ladies' Auxiliary to Portland Central Labor Union, which is to be held in Frye Hall on Saturday evening, April 26th, at 7 o'clock.

This will be the third annual event held by the Auxiliary. The first proved a very successful occasion, the second was a mite better, and for the third, members of the committee are sparing no means to make it the best ever.

The 50 or more members of the Auxiliary are all active in the organization. Aside from matters in general pertaining to the trade union movement, their activities have been especially devoted to union label work, and in this capacity they are credited by C. L. U. officials with having achieved excellent results.

The supper will be an entirely home product—the cooking and serving being performed by the members, and the floor show, dancing and other enter-

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Regional Conference of Electrical Workers to Provide Man Power to Aid National Defense Program

Destroys of doing all that is possible to be of assistance in the government's defense program, through providing sufficient man-power on projects throughout the country, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers recently inaugurated a plan for holding regional meetings in six districts in the United States.

The second of the series of conference was held at the Hotel Kimball, Springfield last Saturday morning at 9:45 o'clock, at which were present Edward J. Brown, president, and Walter Kenefick, vice-president and international representatives of the Brotherhood; officials of State Councils and business agents representing local unions in all of the six New England States and Northern New York.

Aside from taking means to provide all the man-power needed for the defense program, action was taken looking forward to the naming of representatives of Labor on all committees named, and in which Labor is concerned.

Other matters discussed were demands made for collective bargaining and the settlement of disputes through conferences. With representatives of other building trades unions, officials pledged the Brotherhood to eliminate strikes on defense work, and feel it is no more than fair that employers should do their share in the peaceful settlement of grievances.

The first meeting of the series, covering the southeastern States, was held two weeks ago in Florida, and it is planned to complete the series within a month or six weeks.

Nearly every local union in the district was represented at the Springfield meeting.

EDWARD J. BROWN
President, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Bricklayers' President Pleads for Maintenance of Prevailing Labor Standards on Government Projects

Harry C. Bates, Chairman of A. F. of L. Housing Committee, Told House Committee H. R. 3570 Appears to Assume That Public Works Cease to Be Public Works With National Defense Activities—Urges Revision of Bill.

Washington, D. C., Mar. 5 (AFLNS).—Harry C. Bates, chairman of the Housing Committee of the American Federation of Labor, today (Wednesday) told the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds that H. R. 3570 appears to assume that public works cease to be public works when they are undertaken in connection with national defense activities." Organized Labor does not agree with this view, Mr. Bates declared emphatically.

"This bill proposes to repeal all standards and requirements Congress has developed and made applicable to federal-aided public works and substitutes for them such 'directions', 'regulations', 'terms and conditions' as may be described by the President," the A. F. of L. spokesman testified.

"In other words, the bill proposes to scrap completely all standards previously developed through experience and embodied in statute as the supreme expression of inviolate public policy and to substitute for them new and unknown standards yet to be hastily thrown together and submitted to the President for quick promulgations by any of the large number of agencies which may take part in the program."

Mr. Bates, who is president of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers' International Union, said the A. F. of L. is "well aware of the urgency of the

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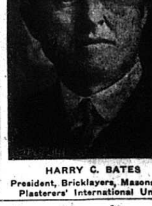

HARRY C. BATES
President, Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers' International Union

Workers on Rutland Railroad to Take 5 Per Cent Pay Cut in Settlement of Two Year Controversy

The proposed strike of 1,300 employes of the Rutland Railroad, members of 15 Railway Brotherhoods and A. F. of L. International Unions, it was announced last Friday, was averted for two years under terms of an agreement announced by I. L. Sharfman, chairman of a mediation board appointed by President Roosevelt.

One section of the agreement, he said last Saturday, provided for a voluntary five per cent pay reduction for all employes earning more than $15 a

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Nation Warned of Post-War Collapse

Action Must Be Taken Now to Avert Panic and Mass Unemployment as Defense Program Ends, AFL Says

Mass unemployment and economic collapse face the United States at the end of the defense emergency and upon the re-establishment of world peace unless steps are taken now to avert the danger, the American Federation of Labor warns the nation in the current American Federationist, official Federation magazine.

"A future date has already been earmarked by the finger of history, a date as yet unknown to us but one we are approaching with deadly certainty—the day that will mark the end of the warfare now convulsing the world and signalize the beginning of lasting peace," the Federation declared.

"Will the great armory for defense of the democracies," it asked, "be converted into a great tool-shed for building upon the foundations of world peace, or will it stand as abandoned and ghostly reminder of a valiant defense effort which only served as a prelude to a peace struggle against unmanageable economic forces, against unemployment and against despair?"

IMMEDIATE ACTION VITAL

The Federation goes on to emphasize the stern necessity of acting at once to cope with danger of post-war collapse.

"Today," it says, "this problem of the aftermath is second only to the problem of national defense in its share of importance in our national policy. Our concern for defense is pressing and immediate. But while in the decisions underlying each step of our policy today the demands of defense must be given first consideration, provision for the post-emergency readjustment must be made with equal care.

"For, unless our programs of taxation, public works, housing, factory allocation, employment and training are tested in terms of our post-emergency requirements and unless every single defense action is tested in those terms, we shall face peace in utter helplessness, unable to shift our entire economy to a sound peace-time basis, unable to meet the peace-time needs for full production, trade and employment."

PROPOSED STEPS OUTLINED

Discussing some of the steps that can be taken to cope with the situation resulting from the end of defense production, the Federation says:

"Incentives for stabilizing full employment at the end of the emergency

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FACING THE FACTS

By PHILIP PEARL
(A. F. of L. Weekly News Service)

We're sorry that illness prohibited us from witnessing the comic spectacle of Westbrook Pegler testifying before a Congressional Committee and demanding the passage of legislation enslaving organized Labor in America.

We say it must have been a comic spectacle because this man Pegler is a clown. He was not born to be serious. He is horribly miscast in the role of a "heavy", as pretentious and as full of sound and fury as an old-school Shakespearean tragedian. Pegler was meant to be a prize-fight writer. When he starts to get serious and indignant about Labor and national affairs, he sounds just as bad as Charlie Chaplin in the 'talkies".

The New Yorker recently did a neat job in taking Pegler down a peg. This magazine, which takes a great delight in deflating public displays of silly pretentiousness, lobbed the pants off Pegler's piece in which he pictured Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt as a dangerous Red. That was too much even for the New Yorker to swallow, and it stuck a few pins into Pegler's blatant stupidity where they would do the most good.

Now, how in the world did Pegler ever road so far afield as to take in labor and politics within his jurisdiction? It wasn't just an accident. It was deliberate. We don't believe he made the decision himself. We have an idea that he was led astray. And by none other than his boss, who is Roy Howard, head of the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain.

Roy Howard is a little man with a

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Retention of 40-Hr. Week Vigorously Urged as Best For Labor and Country

Washington, D. C., Mar. 8 (ILNS).—United States Senator James M. Mead of New York expressed opposition to any break-down of the 40-hour, 5-day week in a vigorous statement issued here.

"The 40-hour week represents Labor's answer to the machine age," declared the Senator. "We still have 7½ million out of work, including approximately 1,000,000 mechanics of middle and older ages who are barred by regulations and policies from re-employment in industry and by the government.

"I think these unemployed ought to find work opportunities before we even consider the surrender or break-down of the 40-hour week. In real emergencies, it may be vitally necessary to work men 6 days but, in such cases, they should receive time and a half overtime pay for work in excess of 40-hours per week. In any event, the principle law should be left alone.

TRAINING IS ADVOCATED

"Under the present law, it is possible to work three shifts 24 hours a day for 6 days a week. On the 7th day, preparations for the next week can be made.

"Necessary arrangements should be possible in cases of real emergency, but as a matter of general practice the 40-hour week should be observed and should not be tampered with in the conduct of the defense program."

Amazingly Strange and Queer Things Still Do Happen in Legislative Assemblies

Numerous stories have been circulated among members of State Legislatures who take for granted the value of resolutions because they are introduced by men of "high standing".

An example of this occurred recently in the New Hampshire Senate, when, according to F. H. Dobens of the Manchester Telegraph, a resolve was slipped through without debate, and which he "somehow doesn't think represents a true picture of the feelings of the majority of residents of New Hampshire.

Here is Mr. Dobens' story, as it was printed in a recent issue of the Telegraph, and which, according to Secretary C. F. Foley of the New Hampshire State Federation of Labor, bears out previous statements as to how much bad legislation has been enacted in past years:

"It was one of the unhurried days that one frequently runs into in the early days of the session. The Senate had nothing to do and was trying to look busy doing just that. The quiet was suddenly broken by a little man who had pushed back his seat and grabbed for his glasses as he demanded the attention of the presiding officer.

"Granted permission to introduce a resolution, there was a lapse of time while the page took it from his outstretched hands, and brought it to the clerk to read.

"For a moment the procedure had caught the attention and interest of

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Large Gathering Expected at Hearing on Labor Relations Act

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tion of Labor was not unmindful of the benefits to be derived by all legitimate enterprises that are not classed as interstate commerce. Among these, however, are some which are not only regarded as exploiters of labor, but who have no sense of fairness in their business dealings, and who are proving a serious menace to legitimate concerns.

Hence, the importance of State legislation that would make intrastate industries subject to terms similar to those contained in the Federal acts. This would not only stabilize wages and hours, but would benefit many thousands of employes who, under present conditions are not only deprived of the right to exercise full freedom of action, but who are at the mercy of concerns which, through the payment of small wages, imposition of long working hours, and other ways of exploitation, prosper at the expense of working people and legitimate business.

Amendments to the Unemployment Compensation Act and the Workmen's Compensation Act are also of utmost importance in the Federation's legislative program, several of which were heard on March 6th and referred to committees. These included L. D. 556, relative to reimbursement of funds by the State; L. D. 557, providing for the repeal of part of Section 5, and L. D. 558, relative to fraudulent claims for benefits, which were heard last Thursday and referred to committees.

TO REVIVE LABOR BILLS

Hearings at which President Dorsky, Legislative Agent Dunton, other members of the Federation's Executive Council, and representatives of affiliated unions appeared in support of legislative measures were disposed of by reference to committees on last Wednesday, included the following: L. D. 86, 87, 239, 522, 638, 742, 749 and 939. Respectively, these provided for standards of employment and minimum wages for women and minors; hours of work; exempting female clerks from 54-hour week (opposed); for a wage and hour board; limiting hours of work; safety inspection of building construction work; payment of wages, and the weekly payment of wages.

There's a lot of work ahead for the men and women of Labor who are devoting their time, talents and energies in assisting Federation officials in the enactment of its legislative program. Aside from representatives duly delegated by affiliated locals, a goodly number of volunteers are traveling to and from Augusta at their own expense. Much interest is manifested and encouraged by an apparent increase of friendship and sympathy on the part of Senators and Representatives, all are hoping for gratifying results from this year's legislative program.

HEARINGS ON BILLS OF INTEREST TO LABOR

The following bills sponsored and supported by the Maine State Federation of Labor, hearings on which are scheduled to be held during the month, are as follows:

L. D. 928, presented by Representative Chase, affording more time for filing claims under the Unemployment Compensation Act, is to be heard on March 20th.

L. D. 672, presented by Representative Dow of Oxford, provides for changes from accident to injury in the Workmen's Compensation Act.

L. D. 671, presented by Representative Chamberlain, pertains to the proposed State Labor Relations Act. No date set for hearing.

L. D. 611, presented by Representative Roy, applies to the Chain Store tax.

L. D. 795, presented by Representative Pierce, provides for a Savings Bank Life Insurance law. Referred to Committee on Banks and Banking.

Bills pertaining to Unemployment Compensation insurance:

L. D. 603, presented by Representative Grua, provides for corrections of benefit claims. This bill is to be heard on March 13.

L. D. 604, presented by Representative Grua, relates to experience rating. To be heard on March 13.

L. D. 605, presented by Representative Grua, relative to the Advisory Council.

Bills opposed by the Federation:

L. D. 881, presented by Representative Chase, relate to rates based on benefit experience. Hearing to be held March 13th.

L. D. 801, presented by Representative Warren, mandatory seven weeks penalty for quitting job. Hearing on March 20th.

L. D. 675, presented by Representative Harvey of York, known as the "Sabotage Act".

L. D. 65 and 66, relative to tobacco and cigarette taxes, and L. D. 565, pertaining to income taxes. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

Passed—L. D. 97, presented by Representative Townsend, exempting certain musical instruments from tax.

Harry Adamson Represents Barbers At Legis. Hearings

Harry Adamson, vice-president of the Portland Journeymen Barbers' Union, appeared before the State Legislature in opposition to changing the present Barbers' License Law, which has contributed immeasurably to the sanitation and health of the industry. Mr. Adamson also spoke in favor of another bill which, if enacted, will further advance conditions in the industry.

Electric Workers' 333 to Hold Spec. Meeting

A special meeting of Electrical Workers' Local 333 has been called for Friday, March 14th, at Frye Hall. As this is a very important meeting, all unemployed members are especially requested to attend.

New England Organizer William Steinmiller of Hartford, will represent the Brotherhood at this meeting. And among important subjects scheduled for action are the agreement and other matters concerning the future policy of the Local Union.

Sanford Textile Union to Act on Affiliation With State Branch

An invitation to affiliate with the Maine State Federation of Labor was extended by Vice-President Horace E. Howe to Local 1802, Federation of Woolen and Worsted Workers, of Sanford. The invitation will be acted upon at the April meeting, according to word received from officials of the Union, who are anxious to become part of the Federation and by this means complete their organizing campaign started last June.

Marked progress has been made and an agreement has been signed with the Sanford Mills. Officers of Local 1802 are: President, Edward Ambrose; vice-president, Alvina Monahan; secretary, Laurent Pelletier; treasurer, Harry Hullah; financial secretary, Ernest Eaton.

Many members of the union are regular readers of The Labor News. All A. F. of L. unions in Maine are awaiting the fellowship and cooperation of the Sanford union.

Present indications are that the convention of the State Federation, to be held at Millinocket in June, will be a record-breaker from the standpoint of attendance.

Stereotypers' Local 111 Subscribes to The Labor News

At a recent meeting of Portland Stereotypers' Local 111, it was voted to subscribe to the Maine Labor News for the entire membership, starting with the March issue.

CLU Ladies' Auxiliary

(Continued from Page 1)

tainment is arranged and under the supervision of a special committee.

The sale of tickets thus far indicates a much larger attendance than at last year's affair.

Tickets can be obtained from members of from Mrs. Alice Howe, chairman of ticket-committee, 28 Reynolds street, South Portland. Her telephone is 2-3884.

Included among invited guests are William Green, president, American Federation of Labor; I. M. Ornburn, acting secretary, American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries; President B. J. Dorsky of the Maine State Federation of Labor, and Mrs. Dorsky; Vice-Presidents H. Albion Wright, Augusta; Leo J. Ashey, Bucksport; John F. Wheeler, Millinocket; C. Arnold Brown, Woodland; Treasurer Richard W. Gustin, Bangor, and Secretary C. O. Dunton of Rumford; A. F. of L. Organizer Alonzo F. Young, and Freeman M. Saltus, editor of The Labor News.

Invitations have also been sent to members of the recently organized Ladies' Auxiliary in Bucksport. There will be a door prize and other features.

25 Years of Progress is Record Scored by ILA Freight Handlers

Local 912, Freight Handlers' Union, I. L. A., will celebrate the progress made since its institution 25 years ago, at their meeting in Majestic Hall, 379 Congress street tonight (Tuesday).

According to President Sam N. Ferrante, refreshments will be served after a brief meeting. Among invited guests are John Silke, vice-president of the I. L. A., and Horace E. Howe, vice-president of the Maine State Federation of Labor and president of the Portland Central Labor Union.

Rocco Germaine, a delegate to the C. L. U., will certainly be there with the refreshment committee, which reminds the writer of that steak dinner served at the Field Day at Long Island last summer.

Speaking of 25 years ago, when the Freight Handlers were on strike at the Grand Trunk piers for a 25-cents-an-hour wage, and applied for a charter with the International Longshoremen's Association, Ralph A. Urbano, who was then president of the union, now engaged in the real estate and exterminating business in South Portland, expressed amazement over the splendid progress made by the union since it was organized. "It's early history," he said, "was anything but a bed of roses, and how well I remember the hardships experienced during the first few months of its existence."

Uncle Sam Wants Construction Inspection Coordinator at $3800

Civil Service examinations are announced for a Construction inspection coordinator at $3,800 a year, United State Maritime Commission. Applicants may qualify in three optional branches: Hull, machinery and electrical. Practical experience of at least Journeyman mechanic grade on the construction of ocean-going vessels is required, as well as four years of experience in supervisory capacity. Applications will be rated as received until further notice.

FIFTY STUDENT NURSES FOR HOSPITAL

Application for student nurse, $288 a year, including quarters, subsistence, laundry and medical attention, must be filed not later than April 1st. Approximately 50 students will be enrolled on September 1, in the training course at the St. Elizabeth's Hospital School of Nursing, Washington, D. C. Graduation from an accredited high school giving a four-year course which included certain subjects, is required. Applicants must have reached their 18th birthday but must not have passed their 30th birthday.

Full information as to the requirements for these examinations, and application forms, may be obtained at any first or second- class post office.

Portland C. L. U. and Truck Drivers Local Union 380 to Hold Joint Observance of Anniversaries

May 3rd will be a memorable day in the annals of Greater Portland's Labor movement. On that day will be observed the 41st anniversary of the Portland Central Labor Union and the third anniversary of Truck Drivers' Local 340.

A joint committee representing both organizations has been named, and it has been decided to hold a banquet at the Eastland Hotel, which it is expected will be attended by more than 500 C. L. U. delegates, members of Local 340, and members of local unions in Portland and vicinity.

The occasion is part of the Spring program planned by the Central Labor Union to carry on an aggressive organizing campaign preparatory to the Summer months, and from which it is hoped to secure good results.

The idea of a joint anniversary celebration was conceived by officials of both organizations, who deemed it advisable to act jointly instead of holding two celebrations.

Members of Local 340 are greatly appreciative of the interest manifested by the Central Labor Union on behalf of their organization, and on several troublous times, and in a measure are taking this means to demonstrate their friendship and good will toward the Central body.

On the other hand, Central Labor Union delegates are desirous of manifesting the appreciation for the interest manifested by Local 340, whose delegates have been among the most active in the Central body since the local was instituted several years ago.

While members of the committee of arrangements have an extensive program in the making, nothing definite has been decided upon, aside from selection of the date and place for the joint banquet. Among those to be invited to attend are President William Green of the A. F. of L.; President B. J. Dorsky and other officials of the State Federation of Labor; State, County and municipal officials, and others.

One member of the committee, in outlining proposed plans, told your correspondent that it is the aim of the committee to make the joint banquet the largest and most important social event ever held in local Labor circles.

It is hoped arrangements will have been completed before the next issue of The Labor News, when full details will be furnished for publication.

Hood Rubber Footwear is Now Manufactured Under Union Condit'ns

Members of Watertown, Mass., Rubber Workers' Union, Federal Local 21914, A. F. of L., have entered into over relations existing between their union and the management of the Hood Rubber Company, and in a communication read at last Wednesday night's meeting of the Portland Central Labor Union, said the company, which is the second largest manufacturer of rubber and canvise footwear in the United States, does an annual business of $15,000,000, employs more than 4,000 workers; that for 60 years Hood products have been regarded among the highest quality footwear on the American market, and last but not least, they are manufactured by union workmen and under union conditions.

Attention was particularly called in the communication to the fact that the agreement signed between the union and the company was the first A. F of L. contract entered into by a major manufacturer of rubber footwear, and that as a means for bringing back all rubber workers into the A. F. of L. fold, a strong appeal is made to the vast membership of the A. F. of L. to buy Hood rubber products, which are not only of the highest quality but are produced under a signed agreement with the American Federation of Labor.

Plan of Sub-Letting of Defense Material Contracts Will Benefit Men Who Left State for Other Jobs

Through efforts of the Maine Development Commission, plans are being made to hasten industrial production through sub-letting of defense material contracts. William C. Robbins, the State's industrial engineer, will contact basic contractors throughout New England to obtain samples of articles that can be made in Maine. These will afterwards be shipped to designated assembly plants for the mass completion of the work to which they relate.

Under the new plan, the Commission will be enabled to make a general systematic canvass of the larger industrial production factories. From them will be ascertained what portion of the main contracts may be divided up among smaller manufacturing units, so as to permit the larger plant to concentrate upon the major lines. This will prevent congestion, on one hand, and concurrently provide for more general distribution, and consequent speeding up of production and delivery, upon the other.

Many skilled workers who have left Maine to seek employment in other localities will thus find it possible to return and become engaged on lines of work for which their special skills have long qualified them. The plan is obviously practical, and of distinct advantage to the general defense program and to the immediate localities affected.

Oppose "Sales" and "Chain Store" Tax Proposals; Claim Passage Would Work Hardship on Workers

Again the "Sales Tax" and the "Chain Store Tax" have come to the fore through bills introduced in the State Legislature, and once again Labor joins with the Chambers of Commerce and other organizations of retail merchants in voicing its objection to the passage of these bills.

"It is generally felt among members of organized Labor that both the "Sales Tax" and "Chain Store Tax" would place too great a burden on the buying power of the wage-earner, and also that other forms of taxation lend themselves better to means of raising additional revenues desired.

Public sentiment and opinion on these two bills, as in the past, is now expected to crystallize and will be made known in an effective manner unless one or both of them are put over in the Legislature.

When the "Sales Tax" bill came up for a referendum vote several years ago, and was opposed by the Maine State Federation of Labor, along with the Chambers of Commerce and other organizations, it was defeated by the largest vote that any referendum measure in the history of the State ever suffered. With the temper of the public such as it is now, it is more than likely that the legislation would suffer an even greater defeat, should these measures be put up to the public for a vote.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

WOULD ABOLISH DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Rep. Lloyd F. Crockett of North Haven, introduced a bill to abolish the Maine Development Commission, to be replaced by a separate State Department with special allocation of supporting funds. The new agency would comprise a seven-man board to be composed of the Governor and the respective Commissioners of Agriculture, Inland Fisheries and Game, Sea and Shore Fisheries, Labor and Industry, Forestry, and the State Geologist.

An annual appropriation of $150,000 is sought, the general purpose being that of widely publicizing the various principal resources, products and attractions of the State. Each department would have its individual segregated budget. The present Develop-

(Continued on Page 7)

Maine Paper Mill Unions To Hold Conference in Bangor March 30th

It was announced by Robert Boyle, president of the Maine Council of Paper Mill Unions this (Tuesday) morning, that the quarterly conference of the Council would be held in the Penobscot Exchange Hotel, Bangor, on Sunday, March 30, beginning at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

Matters of importance are scheduled for the March 30th meeting. Besides including reports of organizing campaigns and conditions prevailing in organized mills throughout the State, action will be taken on legislation sponsored by the State Federation of Labor, which have not been disposed of at that time.

Officials of the International Brotherhoods present will report on the progress made during the past year, this applying in particular to the institution of more than 50 new local unions, about evenly divided between the two Brotherhoods, a goodly number of which were organized in New England, New York State and Canada.

Maine State Federation of Labor officials who will address the meeting will include President B. J. Dorsky, Secretary Charles O. Dunton, who is also secretary of the Council; Treasurer Richard W. Gustin, and others.

The Maine Council of Paper Mill Unions, which was organized two years ago, has played a most important part in the stabilization of the paper industry in Maine and other parts of the country, agreements consummated with employers resulting in not only establishing good relations between workers and management, but a cooperative sentiment which has greatly assisted in bringing the industry from the low level existing during the depression, to present greatly improved conditions.

A full report of the proceedings of the March 30th conference will appear in the April issue of The Labor News.

Sup't of South Portland Ship Yard Vows He Will Discharge Any Boss Discriminating Against Union Men

Says No Union Man in His Employ Need Fear Showing His Union Button, But Should Be Proud to Display It—Charged With Working Drivers 14 Hours A Day, Superintendent Told Union Representatives He Would Not Permit Any Man to Work That Many Hours.

The recent labor controversy between union representatives and the Sanders Engineering Company, now building the Todd-Bath Iron Shipbuilding Corp. plant at South Portland, has been practically settled in conference. Miss Anna Weinstock, conciliator for the U. S. Conciliation Service, was active in bringing about an understanding between the parties to the dispute.

Company officials gave emphatic assurance that they did not discriminate against union labor, and that the concern does not violate the Wage-Hour Law. Also, it denies that it has failed to "live up" to its agreement to use the Maine Employment Bureau, except very rarely. This was in an emergency. It claimed that all trucks are hired at a flat hourly rate, and the driver is furnished by the truckers themselves.

It was stated by John Sweeney, general superintendent of the project, that no union men should feel obliged to conceal their union-membership buttons, but should be proud to display them. He promised to discharge any boss who had discriminated against them in this manner, and promised that men living in or near Portland, the scene of the project, would be given preference in employment.

It was argued by Raymond M. Conary, president and business agent of Local 340, Truck Drivers, Helpers and Warehousemen's Union, that the residences given by many of the job applicants were of other parts of the State, rather than Portland. He claimed that some of the truckmen were working "14 hours a day" for less than union wages. To this, Mr. Sweeney replied that he would not have any men who worked long, as they would be of no use to him, probably on the ground of over-exertion.

Alexander F. Eagles, business representative for Electrical Workers' Local 567, told of alleged discrimination against union men, which charge was replied to by Arthur C. Stanley, president of the Sanders Engineering Co.

Others who attended the conference included Horace E. Howe, president of the Portland Central Labor Union and vice-president of the Maine State Federation of Labor, who pleaded the case for the labor delegation.

In the end, it was practically established that the difficulty arose mainly from the newness of the work, and the lack of prior arrangements as to the supply of labor. A resumption of the difficulty is not looked for, as a result of the publicly stated policy of the Engineering Company not to discriminate against union labor.

In and Out of the News

PRESQUE ISLE IMPROVEMENTS

With the completion of a modern two-way radio station at the Presque Isle airport, substantial facilities for communication will be provided. Passenger station equipment will now equal that of any comparable station. Dexter Darby is chief agent at the local office.

In order to improve the Presque Isle water supply, construction of a modern filtration plant will begin early this Spring, officials of the local water company have announced. The cost is estimated at from $75,000 to $80,000. General improvement of the distributing system, and increase in water-flow and pressure, will result when the construction has been completed.

PRESQUE ISLE HAS FOOD STAMP PLAN

In line with the consistent expansion of the Food Stamp Plan, Presque Isle has been added to the list of Maine cities and towns which are now benefiting by that program. The main purpose, as is well known, is to find an orderly market for surplus food products which otherwise might deteriorate, or glut the market.

Other localities which have recently been included in the Food Stamp plan system are Caribou, Fort Fairfield and Washburn. Nearly 1000 families will be immediately aided by operation of the plan.

ROCKLAND AIRPORT IS ASSURED

Signing of an agreement by Mayor Edward A. Beazie with the WPA, apparently assures the construction of an airport for Rockland. The project, to be mainly for national defense purposes, will be located in the town of Owl's Head, three miles from Rockland. The work will cost almost $700,000, and follows the required purchase of sufficient land for the desired purpose.

The projected airport will have facilities for three 3,500-foot runways suitable for landing and take-off to accommodate the largest type of military

(Continued on Page 7)

Understanding Arrived At Between Elec'l Workers at Bangor

Efforts to make a "mountain out of a mole-hill" by an element which grasps opportunities to discredit labor unions, were quashed during the past few days when it was announced that work on the Bangor airport had not, and would not be delayed, as had been stated through newspaper reports.

According to reports, after conferring with representatives of the two Electricians' Unions, the regular A. F. of L. local and members of an independent union, General conciliators announced "It now appears that no strike will occur at the $2,000,000 Bangor airport job."

This is good news, and puts the quietus on "sour-puss" agitators whose principal purpose seems directed toward criticising labor unions during these troublous times.

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FINE COOPERATION RESULTS FROM CONNECTICUT STATE FEDERATION'S SERIES OF REGIONAL MEETINGS

Hearings Held on Labor Relations and Workmen's Compensation Measures at State House Crowded With Delegations Representing Unions From All Industrial Centers of State—Indications Point to Success on Behalf of Labor's Legislative Program.

According to Secretary-Treasurer John J. Egan of the Connecticut Federation of Labor, present indications are that good results will ensue from Labor's efforts for the passage of legislation sponsored by the Federation.

"That which gives excellent reason for anticipating success from this year's session of the Legislature," says Secretary Egan, "is the apparent friendly and sympathetic feeling expressed by legislators toward our major measures and the comparatively small amount of opposition voiced by employers' organizations."

"Officers of the Federation are especially well pleased over the interest manifested by Central bodies and local unions from all parts of the State. This is demonstrated by the unprecedented numbers who have thus far attended hearings at the State House, and the response to our request for making personal contacts with their Senators and Representatives.

"Much of the success achieved in this direction," Secretary Egan said, "resulted from interest stimulated at our state-wide series of regional meetings the last of which was held in Hartford several weeks ago. All the meetings were largely attended and the interest manifested this year was such as to afford Federation officials unsurpassed encouragement.

"Of particular interest this year was the attendance at last Wednesday's hearings on the State Labor Relations (Baby Wagner) Act, and amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act, which overtaxed the capacity of the hearing room. Present indications are that these two measures will meet with favor, as not only was the opposition on the part of employers' representatives comparatively mild, but in some instances these cooperated, especially as this applied to clauses which concern dependent children and men past the age of 65."

Secretary Egan says he also anticipates passage of a State Wage and Hour Law, which, while exempting workers employed in certain industries, is drafted to conform with the Federal law, as this applies to people employed in factories operating under interstate laws. If adopted by the Legislature, and belief is rife that it will be, Connecticut will be the sixth State to have a collective bargaining law on its statutes. Others having similar laws are Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Utah and Wisconsin.

Mr. Egan said all other measures on the Federation's program have been assigned to committees, and on which it is expected action will be held during the next few weeks.

We are requesting Congress to enlarge the Board to a membership of five. Nothing has been more amply established than that the Board cannot render its decisions expeditiously enough. Delays have occasioned great hardships to working people, employers and the public. By adding two members to the present Board, a major source of this difficulty will be removed. The present Board is overworked. It cannot handle the great mass of cases that come before it with the speed that Congress contemplated and the purposes of the Act require.

Our bill provides that "three members of the Board shall at all times constitute a quorum." Because of changes in the personnel as originally constituted, we do not at this time think it necessary to re-submit our original amendment calling for the abolition of the existing Board and the creation of a new one.

We are requesting Congress, too, to adopt our recommendations which limit the absolute power heretofore claimed by the Board to determine appropriate bargaining units. By so doing, any Board, present or future, will be prevented from imposing upon the workers of this country the type and form of organization which the individual members of the Board may prefer, in total disregard of the desires of the employes themselves. It has been demonstrated that the greatest source of abuse by the Board in the past grew out of this uncontrolled and unreviewable power over units.

BAN ON NEEDLESS CHANGES

Another amendment which the Federation proposes will go a long way toward stabilizing industrial relations and insuring industrial peace. The Amendment will deprive the Board of the power to change a certification for a period of a year and will also deprive it of the power to change a bargaining representative for a period of a year where that bargaining representative has been recognized under a valid union agreement.

Our amendment also provides methods for greater speed and efficiency in representation cases. Until now the Board has construed the Act to require a full formal hearing before it may certify an exclusive bargaining representative. Even if all parties to the proceeding consent to an election without a formal hearing, the Board has refused to grant formal certification to the representative selected by the majority. The amendment provides for the issuance of a formal certificate to the designated representative when formal hearing has been waived. In addition, time limits within which the Board must grant or deny certification are set forth.

Finally, we propose an amendment which would grant to local labor organizations the right of appeal in representation cases. The need for such an amendment has been abundantly demonstrated. Valuable, and oftimes basic rights of labor unions are conclusively determined in representation cases. Under the present law labor unions are denied the right to appeal from decisions of the Board in such cases. It is in accord with traditional American concepts that the labor union have its day in court to appeal from decisions that directly affect its interests. This amendment will overcome the injustice pointed to and commented upon by the courts in Longshoremen's case, in which case the Board wiped out American Federation of Labor bargaining units in several cities by declaring the entire West Coast to constitute a single unit for collective bargaining, and this without according the chartered union the right of review in court.

The communication was read at a recent meeting of the Portland C. L. U. and referred to The Maine Labor News for publication.

A. F. of L. Completes Amendments To National Labor Relations Act in Compliance With Convention Action

President William Green, on behalf of the Executive Council, this week issued the following statement regarding the amendments to the National Labor Relations Act which were drafted and introduced at the request of the American Federation of Labor in compliance with the unanimous action of the convention held at New Orleans in November, last year:

The necessity for some of the A. F. of L. amendments submitted to previous sessions of Congress has been eliminated by recent court decisions which have given the Act the interpretation that the Federation has always contended for and sought by its proposed amendments prior to such decisions.

The Federation is now submitting a revised set of amendments that will serve the dual purpose of strengthening weak spots and obviating the possibility of a repetition of prior maladministration in the more important of its functions.

Strong Hopes Are Entertained for Important Changes in Vermont's Unemployment Compensation Law

(Special to The Labor News)

Montpelier, Vt., Mar. 1.—Judging from interest manifested at a hearing held at the State House on February 20th, on House Bills 8 and 9, when several hours were devoted to the question of amending the Unemployment Compensation Act, indications that something constructive will result from arguments advanced by officials of the Vermont Federation of Labor, this will not only greatly liberalize the Act, but remove some of its evils, due largely to its misinterpretation.

Principal among advocates, aside from officials of the Federation and the Barre Central Labor Union, were several employers and others who favored the amendments. These included Heber G. England, who represented the Barre Granite Manufacturers' Association and the Jones Brothers Co.; Raymond V. Ebbett, who favored the bill on behalf of agriculture; Nelson W. Hooker, representing the Barre Quarries Cooperative Association; Cecil Crawford spoke on behalf of the United Stone and Allied Products Workers, and Augustus Rossi represented the Barre Central Labor Union.

The only opposition registered against the measures was by Carl Disney Rutland manager for the Associated Industries of Vermont, and Guy Nicholas, saw mill operator of Orange.

In support of the bill, on behalf of the Vermont Federation of Labor, Secretary Sinclair said, in part:

"When this Act was adopted as a Federal Law, its purpose was to prevent and relieve the misfortunes that come when earnings are cut off by lack of work, and which would permit the worker to carry on and prevent him or her from appealing for charity, or facing utter destitution. That is what the Act was expected to accomplish However, it has not worked that way for our people in Vermont.

"The question now before us is, how much will this change cost?" In a recent survey it was found that of the six New England States, Pennsylvania and New York. Vermont's financial standing in respect to this fund is the second highest, exceeded only by that of Connecticut to a very small degree.

Filled to its utmost capacity, the Narragansett was a veritable beehive of finely-gowned women, a goodly number of men garbed in "tuxes", and all in all, it was an occasion which from all standpoints, including good speaking, splendid music, good "eats" and good-fellowship, left a fine impression on all who participated.

After tables had been cleared, and the way paved for admitting as many as possible to the main diningroom, the speaking program was opened by Frank Duffy of New York Local 15.

The speakers included Governor J. Howard McGrath, former Governor Robert E. Quinn, Congressman John E Fogarty, Justice Luigi Di Pasquale, Mayor Dennis J. Roberts of Providence, Joseph Mullaly, a vice-president of the International Union of Operating Engineers, who presented Mr. White with a gold watch.

Operating Engineers Working At Quonset Join With Local 57 In Testimonial to Prov. B. A.

More than 400 workers employed at the Quonset Naval Airbase, a goodly number being affiliated with New York, Newark and other locals of the International Union of Operating Engineers, with members of Local 57 and friends numbering more than 1,000 participated in one of the finest testimonials ever tendered a member of a trade union in New England, which was held at the Narragansett Hotel, Providence, on Sunday evening, Feb. 23rd.

The recipient of this fine testimonial was John A. White, business agent for Hoisting and Portable Engineers' Local 57 who, during his entire service in his position, has not only won the admiration of members of his local, but that of all building and construction workers with whom he has been associated, and the more than 400 engineers and others among the thousands of building mechanics employed at the Government's big air base.

U. T. W. of A. Officials Look for General Increase of 10 Per Cent in Textile Mills Throughout Country

As a result of contacts with employers in the woolen and worsted industry, in conferences and through communications, present indications are that a general wage increase of at least 10 per cent will be put into effect within the next several days, or with the start of the new season.

President Joseph Sylvia of the Woolen and Worsted Workers (A. F. of L.), in a statement issued from the union's New York headquarters yesterday, said that agreements with the Starr Woolen Company, Enterprise Garnetting Company, Colonie Fibre Company and the W. Lowenthal & Company, all of Cohoes, N. Y., were renewed, with a 2½-cent hourly increase and a week's vacation with pay.

Employes of the Starr Woolen Company's plant in South Pittsburg, Tenn., are also to receive one week's vacation with pay. The agreement covering the latter plant was consummated and signd recently.

Wage increases have already been granted by the East Weymouth Wool Scouring Company of East Weymouth, Mass.; Rohmer Wool Scouring Company of Newton, Mass.; Fred Carr's Wool Shop of Boston, and the Talbot Wool Combing Company of Norton, Mass., which companies are under contract with the Federation of Woolen and Worsted Workers of America. The W. Marshall Company, of Thornton, Rhode Island, has also increased wages. This plant is in the process of organization.

Karl Samuelson, secretary of the local, acted as toastmaster and introduced as speakers John Nelson, president; Jerome Kearney, president of the Providence, Pawtuxet and Central Falls Carpenters District Council; C. H. Dennis, president of the Pawtucket Central Labor Union, and Cornelius J. Mulcahey, business agent for the District Council.

Mr Mulcahey, who is a member of the Providence Housing Authority, gave a resume of the activities of the Authority, what has already been accomplished toward providing homes for working people at low-cost rentals, and spoke of future plans in this direction.

Speaking for the local union, President Nelson referred to the early history of the organization and its successes down through the years, and referred to its present condition, both from the standpoint of membership and finances, as being excellent, with apparently good prospects for the future.

The committee in charge of arrangements were Harold Nyberg, chairman, assisted by Alfred Anderson, Bjorna Hendrickson and Andrew Anderson.

Lend-Lease Bill on Way to President For His Signature

After weeks of discussion, which ended victoriously last Saturday for the Administration's Lease-Lend bill, the measure was on its way to the White House for the President's signature as The Labor News goes to press.

Probably no piece of legislation in the history of the country has caused such turmoil in Congress as has the Lease-Lend Bill. Opponents, for the most part, while not opposed to aiding Britain, expressed fear that passage of the bill was certain to plunge this nation headlong into the European conflict.

Proponents of the bill, aside from giving out-and-out aid to Britain, expressed confidence in the President, and that under no condition would he exercise his prerogatives unless forced to by acts of war by the Axis powers.

Comments in today's newspapers except in few instances, express certainty passage of the bill will bring victory to Britain, and by this means will eliminate any possibility of invasion of the Americas.

Press reports this morning announced orders for the immediate delivery of airplanes, tanks and other war materials totaling more than $1,200,000,000, and that every possible means will be taken to speed up the nation's production to the highest possible extent.

Nashua Sulphite Local's First Annual Banquet Pronounced Success

The 250 members and friends of Nashua Local 270 of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers who attended the organization's first annual ball, held in Veterans' Hall last Saturday evening, pronounced the event a decided success.

Music for the banquet and dancing was furnished by Redding's Band of Lowell, and the entertainment program included an excellent floor show, with vaudeville artists from Boston.

Among those present, and who participated in the speaking program at the banquet, were William Hinsline, New England organizer for the International Brotherhood, who, in the course of his address, referred to the growth and progress made by local unions throughout the New England area; and L. R. Hill, supt. of the coating division, who was accompanied by Mrs. Hill; Merrick Chapin, superintendent of the package paper division, and Mrs. Chapin; A. C. Van Sluys, superintendent of the mechanical department, and Mrs. Van Sluys; William Law and Mrs. Law, and Albert Fhipard, assistant office manager, all of the Nashua Gummed and Coated Paper Company.

Dancing, which followed the banquet, was enjoyed until midnight, and all present referred to the event as the best ever sponsored by the local union.

Carpenters 1695 Have 32nd Anniversary With Banquet at Viking

Members of Newport Local 1695, Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America feel quite proud over the achievements scored by their local since it was instituted 32 years ago, and with guests celebrated its anniversary with a banquet and entertainment at the Viking Hotel on Monday evening, February 3rd.

It will be greatly appreciated, if when making purchases from our advertisers, you will please mention The Labor News.

Social Security

INFORMATION COMMENTS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By ALBERT N. TARDIF

320 BRAMHALL STREET PORTLAND, MAINE

Any reader of The Labor News may secure, without cost, answers to questions relating to Social Security by addressing their questions to the above-named writer. The questions will be answered through this column. Only initials will be used. If a direct personal reply is desired, enclose a 3-cent stamped envelope with your address upon it.

From Social Security to the Court of Saint James. That's the route traveled by John G. Winant during the last six years. He was the first chairman of the Social Security Board.

Guy Chipman, popular manager of the Portland office of the MUCC for several years, has been transferred to Augusta, where he will handle appeal cases. The number of cases appealed increased rapidly during the past year.

While many workers are familiar with the appeal procedure in the case of unemployment compensation, not many are familiar with the fact that appeals tribunals have also been set up for those who are dissatisfied with their award in the case of Social Security Old-Age Insurance. This also applies to survivors' benefits. However, the number of appeals is much lower than in the case of Jobless Insurance claimants.

Seeking information on this subject, I secured an appointment with Keith Coombs, manager of the Portland field office maintained by the Social Security Board. He was very helpful, and clarified many points on which I had wanted more information.

Applicants who feel the amount the Board awards is not sufficient, should ask for a reconsideration before filing an appeal. It has been the experience of the local office that misunderstandings have nearly all been satisfactorily adjusted by the reconsideration; the number of cases appealed to date having been negligible.

Persons who appeal from the original decision need not secure the services of a lawyer. Employes in the local offices will help them prepare their appeals. If one chooses to be represented by an attorney, he may do so. The fee must not exceed $10. Persons who are not lawyers are not permitted to charge for their services in representing others, unless they can prove qualified to be of material assistance to their clients.

So many amendments to the Maine Unemployment Compensation Law have been presented so far at this session that I think I might as well join the parade and present a suggestion, also. As I understand it, the law now have a provision whereby benefit payments may be pro-rated in the event the reserve fund drops to a certain minimum, and income is less than current benefit requirements. Should the merit rating system be adopted, such a situation may readily materialize. If this happens, I feel it would be unfair to persons who file their first claim to be subject to the pro-rating rule. The law should be amended to exempt all workers who have never collected any benefits. Or at least within the last preceding five years.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q.—Has Canada established a system of unemployment insurance?

A.—Yes.

Q.—How does it compare with our benefit program? Give a brief outline.

A.—The Canadian system embodies the principle used in our Social Security old-age and survivors' insurance—namely, persons with dependents receive larger benefits than single individuals. The Dominion of Canada secured constitutional authority to establish unemployment insurance and, on August 7, 1940, adopted a national system.

This national system is financed by contributions from employers, employes and the Dominion, with the sum varying with wage classes. Low-paid employes contribute less than their employers, higher-paid employes paying more. While a number of occupations are excluded, and workers receiving over $2000 not covered, there is no exemption based on the smallness of the employing unit. Under the Canadian law, benefits are computed on the basis of the past year, but additional benefits are allowed if the worker has dependents.

Benefit rate ranges from 38 to 63 per cent of average weekly earnings for those without dependents, and from 45 to 74 per cent for those with dependents.

The waiting period consists of the first nine days of unemployment within the benefit year. The length of time for which benefits will be paid depends on the worker's contribution and benefit record. One benefit payment will be made for every five contributions made within the preceding five-year period, minus one benefit payment for each three payments received during the preceding three years.

To be eligible, contributions must have been paid for at least 180 days during the two years prior to the benefit year and for 60 days after the last day for which he received benefits during the preceding benefit year.

Work to Start on 500-House Federal Project Very Soon

In summarizing building and construction and other activities during the month, Fred E. Cushman, secretary of the Portsmouth, N. H., Central Labor Union, writes as follows:

"We sure have had, and are having, an old-fashioned winter. Work in the building trades seems to be sticking off a bit just now, as everything seems to have reached its peak for the present, but we expect there will be 500 homes to be erected by the Federal government here, work to start in the near future.

"We expect there will be sufficient workmen here to care for this project, as the other work is at its peak and is beginning to drop off a bit in some places.

"The Carpenters have made a great improvement in their building by the laying of a hardwood floor in the hall and painting inside, and an oil heater in the basement. They have also made good gains in membership, going from less than 75 last summer to over 200 at present.

THE LABOR NEWS, 50c A YEAR

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THE MAINE STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR
Under Supervision of Leo J. Ashey and B. J. Dorsky

The Official Organ of Organized Labor in Maine, Devoted to the Promotion of the Welfare of the Wage Earner and the Prosperity of Industry Through a Better Understanding and Cooperation Between Employer and Employe.

An Exponent of a Square Deal for Both Sides. Constructive in Policy. Independent in Politics.

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MARCH, 1941

Spreading the Gospel of Union Labelism

What a few members of trade unions can do in the way of accomplishing big things in the Labor movement was recently demonstrated by at least two members of Massachusetts Typographical Unions, as the result of persistent efforts and at personal sacrifices.

We refer to the splendid work of Charles M. Lyon, president of Lynn Typographical Union and a former president of the New England Conference of Typographical Unions, and William P. Cantwell, of Worcester Typographical Union 165, and also a former president of the New England Conference.

As the result of Mr. Lyon's efforts, which necessitated constant attention, time and energy, and with the assistance, of course, of loyal members and friends, all the printing for the County of Bristol is executed in union printing offices and bears the Union Label of the Allied Printing Trades.

Members of New England Typographical Unions are exceedingly proud of Mr. Lyon's achievements, and demonstrated this in no small degree at the recent mid-winter meeting of the Conference, held in Boston, when he was the recipient of high praises for his fine work.

Appreciation for efforts put forth by Mr. Cantwell, whose recent activities greatly assisted the Chicago Printing Trades Unions in their long and persistent fight against of the R. R. Donnelley Co. of that city, and who, after several conferences with the publisher of National Sportsman and Hunting and Fishing magazines, with a circulation of nearly a million copies each month, succeeded in having those publications transferred from the Donnelley plant, where they had been printed for several years, to a union shop in Philadelphia, is also expressed to a high degree.

These two instances alone demonstrate what can be done by members who have the best interests of their trade unions at heart, and cause one to wonder what it would mean to the union printing crafts were there more of this brand of trade unionists, who became real disciples of union labelism?

The writer recalls a statement made several years ago by a strong union label advocate: "Give me 25 members of trade unions who would willingly give of their time, talents and efforts to the propagation of union labels, and I could make my city the best union label city in the nation."

Opportunities for doing this today are just as good as they were at that time. We have capable leaders in Messrs. Lyon and Cantwell, and all that is needed are 25 stalwarts with the financial and moral backing of their unions in their respective cities to get to work and make their efforts successful.

Added Responsibilities for the President

Washington advices are that the President, by his own statement, will personally conduct the program of national defense in connection with the speeded-up "aid to Britain" policy. It is even hinted that there may be a drastic reorganization of the present set-up in the Office of Production Management. This statement is guardedly put forth—but in a way that prepares the public for just such an eventuality. It is hinted that there is not full accord between the joint heads of the Office of Production Management, and that a turning-point must soon be reached.

It is also stated that the President will depend upon an unspecified group in his present cabinet for advice and suggestions on matters of broad policy. This may include the major departments of the Army, Navy, Treasury and State.

One policy that has been already decided upon is that of sub-letting major contracts, in detail, to smaller concerns having facilities for such allocated work. This is for the purpose of speeding up the program and hastening delivery dates on urgently required war materials. Large and important cities, strategically located, will be first considered in connection with this sub-letting plan.

It would seem that the President has already more work than he can handle without impairing his health. History points to past Presidents as either having been seriously ill while in office or shortly after terminating that incumbency. Everybody, regardless of political preferment, deplores the thought that something might occur which would impair the President's health at this time, when his services are of such vast importance to the nation and to the cause of Democracy.

It's Just Downright Stubbornness, That's All!

A member of a trade union who spent several years in Detroit, and who has had opportunities to meet a goodly number of Ford employes, says Henry Ford is not such a "bad egg" as he is made to appear in newspaper stories. The trouble with Ford, he said, is that he is a "stubborn old fool". His humble start in life, and his sudden rise to amazing wealth, just went to his head, and he seems to feel that others with no more opportunities than he had, should be able to pull themselves up by their own boot-straps and not be dependent upon others for assistance.

"As far as his antagonism toward organized Labor is concerned," our informant said, "he is no worse than other manufacturers who capitulated to the CIO. Unlike wages and other conditions in Ford plants, which have always been considered fair, those in other plants were abominable, and as a consequence it was much easier for Communists who led the fight to enthuse large bodies of workers to engage in sit-down and other strikes."

Referring to the possibility of success by the A. F. of L. in its efforts to unionize the River Rouge and Lincoln plants of the Ford company, he said he has it on good authority that workers in these two plants favor the A. F. of L. plan of organization, while efforts on the part of the CIO to organize them have met with resentment.

"This talk about Henry Ford being pro-German, a slave-driver and a down-right enemy of trade unionism," he said, "is untrue, and I have the word of a goodly number of his employes that all the publicity which pictures him as a very bad man is prompted by those who failed to convince him as regards their aincerity on behalf of his employes."

Knudsen Puts Quietus on Calamity-Howlers

In a statement issued during the week by William S. Knudsen, chief of the Office of Production management, calamity-howlers who decry slow production, unwarranted strikes and demand legislation to subdue workers, got a straight-from-the shoulder hint that they "are all wet" and that their fault-finding methods are anything but helpful to the Government's defense program.

Asking for an "increased expansion of industry" and declaring that upon industry must be placed the responsibility for winning the war, Mr. Knudsen is unqualifedly in favor of "all-out aid" for Britain in the present struggle against Nazism.

Stating his belief that the continued expansion of industry will entirely absorb present unemployment within the next year or so, he declared he had no complaint to make against the present 40-hour work week schedule. What was needed, he emphasized, was more men working at the present schedule of hours—and as many more as can be handled in overtime. "More men, more work hours and, consequently, more actual production", was the goal to be sought, he declared.

As to the differences in the two great labor camps, Mr. Knudsen said such things should be "put on ice" for the duration of the crisis. He admitted, however, that strikes at the Vultee and Allis-Chalmers plants had affected production.

Skilled workers are in large numbers, it was stated, and as to the production of machine tools, he pointed out that where the same had amounted to 130 million dollars in 1939, it had now reached 450 millions in 1940. For 1941, it was estimated the total would approximate 650 million dollars.

Twisting Statements

Labor-hating newspaper columnists made a mountain out of a mole-hill recently, when they misquoted the President as to what he might do if it became necessary to seize factories for national defense.

The President, while making it plain to reporters he had no particular designs on any company should this become necessary, was made to appear as though he had the Ford plant in mind, because of that company's refusal to comply with labor clauses in their bid for a ten million dollar order for Army trucks.

Not satisfied with the President's answer to a reporter when questioned concerning the possibility of seizing the Ford plant, these columnists brought Mrs. Roosevelt into the affair, by quoting her as also intimating that the Ford plant was marked for seizure.

Like the President, all that Mrs. Roosevelt said was that the President had the power of seizure should this become necessary for national defense.

This game of twisting statements made by persons in public life is getting to be quite a fad among newspaper men, and while it may be acceptable and even pleasing to some people, it is considered most ridiculous by the great majority of the public.

MACHINISTS THREATEN TO STOP PAYING PER CAPITA TAX TO A. F. L.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, at last Wednesday's session in Miami, was served

HARRY W. BROWN

with notice by Harry W. Brown, president of the International Association of Machinists, that unless means are taken to compel the Brotherhood of Carpenters to desist from trespassing on the former union's jurisdiction, his organization would cease paying its per capita tax on 225,000 members to that body.

President Brown is quoted as having said that "we have been conferring on and off for two years without success, and another parley would do no good", after the Council had suggested the dispute be settled by a conference between the two international unions involved.

Continuing, Mr. Brown said: "The work in dispute was awarded us by the Executive Council more than a quarter of a century ago, and this award has been repeatedly upheld in subsequent years. But the Carpenters simply won't abide.

"The difference involves millwright work—that is, installation and dismantling of machinery," he said, "and it will now be up to the next A. F. of L. convention either to enforce the Machinists' rights or go without affiliation of the union."

HALF MILLION INCREASE IN A. F. L. MEMBERSHIP IN LAST FOUR MONTHS

Miami, Fla., Mar. 8 (AFLNS).—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, said that at the meeting of the Executive Council Geo. L. Meany, secretary-treasurer, had reported an increase of 500,000 dues-paying members in the four-month period ending last December. The membership reported at the last convention as of September 1, 1940, was 4,247,443. The present total membership is now set at 4,747,443.

The main increment in membership, Mr. Green said, came from the building trades unions, hotel workers and members of directly affiliated Federal unions.

More Civil Service Exams Announced for Gov't Positions

Open competitive examinations for the positions described below were announced by the United States Civil Service Commission. Applications will be accepted at the Commission's Washington office not later than Mar 12. All salaries are subject to a 3½ per cent retirement deduction.

Inspector, naval civilian police, Navy Department, $2,600 a year. The duties involve general direction of a civilian police force at navy yards and naval establishments. Applicants are required to have at least two years of law-enforcement or criminal investigation experience on a nation-wide basis.

Engineman (steam-electric), various grades with salaries ranging from $1,320 to $2,000 a year. Appointments to these positions will be made in Washington, D. C., only. The duties involve the operation and maintenance of power plant and mechanical equipment, and applicants must have had appropriate experience in this work.

Full information as to the requirements for these examinations, and application forms, may be obtained from the Secretary of the Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, at any first or second-class post office.

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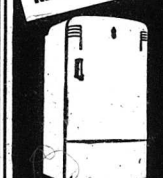

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In a Maine Lumber Camp and at a Tea Party in the Back Bay

★

Two letters — one from a Maine lumber camp, the other from Boston's Back Bay — like the ladies in Kipling's poem, the same, "under the skin" — each in its own way giving testimony to the **quality** of First National Foods.

The lumber camp letter told of bygone days and the frozen deer carcass and the dietary rigors of life in the woods contrasting with today's stacks of First National canned goods in the storeroom, of the greater variety and incomparably better quality of eating, "because of First National Stores".

The Back Bay letter told of the interest shown when the hostess answered queries as to the kind of tea, coffee, etc. — "all First National".

★ ★ ★

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★

FIRST NATIONAL STORES

HORACE HOWE'S COLUMN

Robert Whittle, car and bus starter stationed at Monument Square, has returned to his old post after being absent because of an accident. "Bob", you know, is that large fellow with the genial disposition—or should I say one of them, because John Steele is also located at the Square and answers this general description.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. John Elliott on their wedding, which occurred on Sunday, February 9. Mr. Elliott is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Elliott of Brighton avenue. He was educated in the Portland schools and is an ardent aviation fan. He is employed with the Cumberland County Power and Light Co. Mrs. Elliott, the former Margaret Austin, was employed at the Elliott Jewelry Co. store.

The mystery has been solved! That fellow walking down Main street the other day with the tall white hat and coat is no other than our old friend and brother, Arthur ("Dumpe") Seymour, a retired member of Electrical Workers' 333 and now employed at the newly renovated Gamills Luncheonette as a cook. Probably that is the reason why so many remarks as to the deliciousness of the food served at the Gamillis Luncheonette.

Naturally, we look for a union member to buy coal from a concern employing union Truck Drivers, members of A. F. of L. Local 340, but we do not expect him to tender a check for $1650. for two tons of coal, when the price is only $16.50—just a case of making out the check wrongly. Here's the rest of the scoop: Mr. and Mrs. Raymond E. Boudway recently bought the apartment house at 10 Gilman street. The former owner bought his coal from a concern employing non-union drivers. Mr. Boudway, being secretary of Electrical Workers' Local 333, and Mrs. Boudway being a member of the C. L. U. Auxiliary, decided that the future policy of the house as to heating would be taken care of under union conditions, so in his desire to give the contract to a Union concern, and in his haste to get the non-union dealer out of the picture, "Sid" just made the check out wrongly. The union company discovered the mistake immediately and got in touch with Brother Boudway, and everything is all right, although some members of Local 333 were heard to remark that they were glad "Sid" was not treasurer of the union. The final score: Randall-McAllister Company wins; A. R. Wright Co. loses. Reason: Union versus non-union.

Olen Rankin, a charter member of Local 333, retired as an employe of the Cumberland County Power and Light Company on March 1, after rounding out three decades in their employ. We extend to Mr. and Mrs. Rankin best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

"Bertha, the Beautiful Typewriter Girl," will again be played at Cape Elizabeth April 18, starring Philip T. Place, who will, according to unimpeachable authority, make a personal appearance at the C. E. Town Hall after making the long journey from Meeting House Hill in that faithful old Chevvy.

Forrest E. White, Jr., assistant line superintendent for the Cumberland County Power and Light Co., has a new Dodge.

Page the thrifty Scotchman! James P. Kilmartin refused to bid on the box prepared by Mrs. Kilmartin at the Box Social held by the Ladies' Auxiliary, preferring to hit her make the bid for 15 cents was the maximum price that a member of the Auxiliary could bid, although the men could bid as high as 25 cents). "Well," says Jim, "a dime saved is a dime earned." Among other capers cut up by him was placing a pack of second-hand playing cards in the pocketbook of another member. Before leaving, he partly made amends by calling out the numbers for the Beano.

John "Pete" Gaskill suffered an accident at the Cumberland County Power and Light Co. employes' Safety Dinner by cutting his finger while slicing a roll. It is reported that E. T. Emerson, safety director, was pleased to hear that the Safety Dinner did not result in a lost-time accident to mar the fine record of the Electrical Division of the company. Open suggestion to E. T. E.: That a rubber knife be presented to "Pete" at the next meeting.

Ray Benson has deserted Willard Beach for the City and has moved to 110 High street. Says Ray, "The raising of the rent was the reason," but we wonder if being surrounded by military objectives had anything to do with his decision. I refer to new construction at Fort Preble and the shipyard.

Mrs. David Hastings of the Ladies' Auxiliary has completely recovered from an accident, the result of trimming an offensive corn.

Having birthdays this month are Mrs. John R. Kitchen, Jacqueline Kitchen and Organizer "Jimmy" Kitchen.

Robert May, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo May, celebrated his fourth birthday March 11. Mr. May is President of the Master Barbers' Association. Among the guests were Raymond Howe and Carlton Hackett.

Albert Tardif, columnist for The Labor News, has had his typewriter repaired.

Martin J. Campbell, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the Central Labor Union, reports good response to his efforts to bolster C. L. U. finances.

Philip Hanley has been elected president of the Portland Building and Construction Trades Council.

Sympathies are being extended to relatives of the late John Rumery, whose sudden death on February 27 was a shock to his host of friends. Mr. Rumery had been employed for many years as foreman of the paint shop, Cumberland County Power and Light Co., retiring last summer. Surviving are his sons, Lauriston and Aldo Rumery, employed with the utility company, and a daughter, Arlene, secretary to Attorney Walter Tapley.

Vice-President Hyman Erlick of the Central Labor Union appeared before the Federal Relations Committee at Augusta, in support of a bill to memorialize Congress to pass the Lease-Lend bill. Also supporting the bill was Leo Ashey of Bucksport, a vice-president of the State Federation of Labor.

Vice-President Frank Lynch, Electrical Workers' Local 333, urged changes in the present Workmen's Compensation Law, changing the word "accident" to "injury". If the workers employed by industry in the State are to be fully protected, this law should be amended.

Philip T. Place and Arthur Nason were among other prominent Labor representatives to appear before the Legislature on behalf of Labor legislation.

President Howard Woodside of the Street Carmen's Union has spent considerable time at Augusta during the present session of the Legislature.

Considerable Labor support has been apparent for a State Wage-Hour law, sponsored by Senator Gail Laughlin of Cumberland County. Speaking for the bill were President Dorsky and Legislative Agent C. O. Dunton of the State Federation of Labor; Kenneth Laughlin and Martin Campbell, of the Machinists' Union, and the writer, representing the Portland Central Labor Union. A somewhat amusing incident occurred when one of the opponents of the bill approached the writer and Mr. Laughlin and informed us that he was not opposed to the bill even after registering himself and the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company as opposed. Somehow, I just cannot figure that out. It was also evident that most of the others who opposed the bill were representing industries covered by the Federal law and would not be affected by the State law. I refer to the attorney for the railroad interests, and the representative of a paper company, who, in his remarks, said his company was covered by Federal law, and it would not affect his firm. Probably they just opposed the bill because it was something the workers employed in intrastate commerce need, and that would stabilize competition between interstate and intrastate industry.

Arthur Nason acted as recording secretary for Local 333 on March 7th in the absence of "Sid" Boudway, who was forced to remain at home with stoker trouble.

Open apology to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dallas LeGrow for the error in this column calling the boss of the family a daughter, when it is a son. Well, who can tell what the year ahead holds for us. Maybe, the writer was just a bit premature.

Employes of the Line and Cable Departments of the Portland Division of the Cumberland County Power and Light Company, will attend another of those good fellowship dinners held several times during the year. Alton F. Jordan, superintendent of Overhead Lines, assisted by Forrest E. White, Jr., and a committee of the employes, are cooperating for the success of the affair, which will be held on April 11th.

LIBERTY

Oh, Liberty, we know thy worth,
For this accept our sacrifice,
Let's for and with thee die but once,
For 'tis without thee men die twice.

JOHN J. McLEOD,
I. B. E. W. 333.

A Lenten Call

Remember, man, that dust thou art,
And to dust thou shalt return.
Back to earth from whence you came,
Your body food for worms.
All you have, God gave to you
That you may be but man.
To walk this earth a child of His,
And carry out His plan.

You know you have not done those things
That He would have you do:
The world has claimed your every thought,
While those of Him are few.
Your feet have taken you away
From your Father and your home,
No thoughts of Him come to your mind
As through the world you roam.

His Holy Mother now in heaven
There prays for you, my boy,
And it's for you, at least to do,
To fill her heart with joy.
Her wish would be that you return
From the paths that you have trod,
To that banquet, spread with living bread
Of our blessed Lord and God.

This time of grace is here again,
And He holds out His hands,
To bid us all return to Him,
From strange and alien lands.
The Lenten ashes should remind us
Of that lesson we must learn;
Remember, man, that dust thou art,
And to dust thou shalt return.

John J. McLeod, Local 333.

Distributors of Thor Appliances for Home Laundry

The nationally known line of Thor electric washing machines and Thor electric ironers are now being distributed in Maine by Edward & Walker Company, whose headquarters are at Monument Square in Portland. Dealers of this concern throughout the State are now displaying the complete line of Thor laundry equipment for the home in the latest models.

The interest being manifested by housewives everywhere in Maine in the Thor products being displayed by dealers, and the many sales of both the washing machine and ironer so far, indicate that these Thor electrical appliances are meeting a long-felt need in the home. They are sold in models at a range of prices within the means of even the family of small income, and on budget terms that make it easy for all to own a Thor washing machine and a Thor electric ironer.

Bricklayers' Official is Mayor of Sharon

Sharon, Pa.—Thomas Bailey, who has served for 20 years as secretary and treasurer of the local affiliate of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union, has been elected mayor of this city.

Mayor Bailey was formerly Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements. In addition to serving as an officer of his own union, he has been president of the Sharon Building Trades Council for nine years.

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EAST MILLINOCKET

Vanance Paoletti, One of Many Who Came From Sunny Italy to Make Fortunes, Had Hard Luck

Loss of Fingers of One Hand and An Arm Did Not Discourage Member of Pulp and Sulphite Union From Working Hard to Support and Educate His Children—Still Holds Minor Job With Great Northern Paper Company in East Millinocket, But Hopes to Retire In A Few Years.

By LEONARD GAGNON

East Millinocket, Me., Mar. 4—An editorial appeared in a large metropolitan daily one day last summer deploring the fact that so little praise is ever given or said about anyone while he is living, but when he is dead and gone to his reward, then his good qualities are broadcast to all who are left behind.

The writer of that editorial believed that words of praise, if written at all, would be more and better effect if they were written before one passed to the Great Beyond, and that the world might be a better place in which to live if we were all more open in praising the living, rather than wait and glorify the dead.

Having that editorial in mind, we would like to introduce to the readers of this column (if there are any) a gentleman who was born in Italy, and came to this country more than 40 years ago. This old gentleman has some difficulty in reading the English language, although he is fairly well educated in his native tongue. Through his determination and courage in the face of several accidents and other obstacles, he has succeeded in giving his family of four boys and a girl at least a high school education, besides owning his home here in town.

A MEMBER OF P. M. U. FOR 25 YEARS

Let me now present Mr. Vanance Paoletti. Vanance has been an employe of the Great Northern Paper Company for 35 years, although he has not always had the same job. He came here during construction days back in 1906 and has remained ever since. He was a member of the Pulp Workers' Union for 25 years, but as a mark of respect because of old age and part-time work in the mill during the last few years, the Union has not collected monthly dues from him.

Vanance was born in the Province of Teramo, in the central part of Italy, in 1873. He left the vineyards of his native land to seek his fortune in a new world when he was about 26, landing in New York with only 10 cents. But his pocket had determined that he would work and save his money and in the years to come would be able to retire in comfort. He attended the village schools until he had the equivalent of a high school education, helping to gather the grapes and press them into the finest wine in the district. He also did many of the chores that are common to farm boys in his native country.

Several young men of his acquaintance had come to America the summer before Vanance decided that he, too, would go to the land where 'money grew on vines like the grapes" in his father's vineyard. He was sure that the money was there and that all that had to be done was to take it from the vines and save it so that he could enjoy his last years in comfort.

DREAMS OF IMMIGRANT DAYS

After a slow and uneventful trip over the broad Atlantic, the old passenger boat with Vanance in the steerage, steamed into New York harbor. He waited patiently for his first glimpse of the Statue of Liberty and he knew the significance of the lighted torch in the upraised hand, and the crown which adorns the head of Miss Liberty. He knew that he could find work in this new land that offered every opportunity to one who was willing to work, and that some day he would be rich and famous—and his fame would travel back to the Province from which he came.

Such were the dreams of his young manhood.

After leaving the boat, he went to an address that had been given him in the Italian district of the great city, and made arrangements for board and lodging, and the following day saw him enter the office of an Italian labor contractor. Through this contractor, he was given a job with a crew of building wreckers. After several weeks at this work, he thought he could do better in Boston, so he decided to go there and got a job swinging a sledge-hammer with a railroad section gang, but the work was too hard because he was a small man then, weighing only about 140 pounds.

He, like others, heard rumors that a big job was in progress in the northern part of Maine, and as soon as these rumors were confirmed, he set out for East Millinocket where he, and all the others who came with him, found work. Remaining here after the construction company left, Vanance got work in the groundwood mill, work that paid better wages than he could ever have received had he stayed in the old country. He worked steadily, saved his money and was able to buy a house —having married shortly after securing work in the ground-wood mill. The grounds around the house were large enough to allow him to keep a cow, a few hogs and a flock of chickens, besides looking after a small garden in the summer-time.

He was happy in this new land with his signora who, at regular intervals, presented him with a new bambino, and he was more than ever determined to see that all of them had the benefit of American schools, and that they would all be good Americans. He saved a little money because he knew that as the children grew up he would need to provide more and more for their growing family. But his small savings were to come to a stop suddenly one day when he lost two fingers and half a thumb while at his work. This was the first accident Vanance had suffered since leaving home.

MAIMED—NO ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Vanance had been operating what was known as a "splitter" in the mill for several years when this accident happened. The splitter was an enormous axe, connected to an eccentric and driven by a powerful motor. The eccentric caused the axe to be driven in a continuous up and down movement and large blocks of wood could be placed on the splitting block when the axe was in its upward position, and the downward motion would split the block in two pieces.

In some way, the block of wood that Vanance was holding either slipped or jammed, and the axe came down directly on his right hand, severing half of the thumb and the first and middle fingers. He was laid up for several months due to this accident, and as there was no accident insurance in those days, his small savings were completely gone when he was able to return to work. Although discouraged for a time, Vanance would not give up; he was resolved that his children would not be deprived of the education that was rightfully theirs, and he would work harder than ever and save more money.

A short time after Vanance had returned to work, a new system of handling the wood was put into effect. There would be no more big block to split because all the wood brought into the mill would be small enough to handle without having to be split in two or more pieces. The "splitter" was taken out of the mill and thrown on the junk pile—along with Vanance's job. But determination and persistency soon found another job for him.

The new system for handling wood was to pile up hundreds of cords of it out in the yard during the summer when the rivers and ponds were open, and then use this wood during the winter when everything was frozen up solid. Vanance would work during the summer, helping to pile up this wood, and then in the winter he would put the wood on a conveyor that carried it into the mill, directly to the grinders. Sometimes the pile would be frozen as solid as the ice in the river, especially after a cold rain, and then dynamite would be used to blast the ice that held it together.

CRIPPLED FOR LIFE

Part of Vanance's work was to handle the dynamite and do the blasting, and this led to a more serious and near fatal accident. One day when it was about 39 below zero and the wood frozen into a solid mass, Vanance was busy with his blasting when the accident happened. Whether the fuse was too short or the cap was too deep, was never known, but the dynamite exploded prematurely before Vanance could throw it from him, and poor old Vanance nearly met his Maker. His one good hand was a gory mass of shreds, skin, bones and flesh. Amputation was necessary immediately to save his life.

Once more Vanance was out of work but his savings lasted longer this time because of accident insurance which had taken effect shortly before. He was out of work for a long time as the result of that accident because handicapped as he now was, any kind of work was practically impossible. Again he was discouraged, but too proud to ask for support from the town, he and his good wife skimped and saved in every way possible so that their family should not be deprived of the living and education to which they were entitled.

Vanance was finally given a job in the paper makers' wash room, where he has been sharing the work equally with another old-timer on a three-day week. He and Mrs. Paoletti are happy and proud because, after all these years of accidents and hardships, the children have received high school educations; they still own their home, and although none of the children are employed by the company, Vanance is still able to get a small weekly wage because, even with only two fingers and half a thumb on one hand, and just a stub of an arm on the other side, he can pick up "broke" and sweep the floor in the locker room, and he still has hopes that he will be able to retire in about five years and be comfortable in his old age.

MILLINOCKET

Need for Labor Relations Act in Maine Is of Paramount Importance For Workers Employed in Stores

Would Greatly Benefit People Employed in Small Plants Now Handicapped by Employer Influence—Labor Relations Act Would Aid in "Freeing Last of Our Slaves"—Men and Machines Perform Miracles Unknown to General Public.

By JOHN F. WHEELER, Vice-President, Maine State Federation of Labor

Editor, Maine State Labor News:

Do you know that when I don't have the time to write, I can always think up some very nice things to write for The Labor News, but when I have the time to sit down and do the job, it is a different matter. At the present time, however, there is one thing which prompts me more than any other to take the time to break a rather long silence. That is the subject of a State Labor Relations Act.

A little incident that took place a few days ago sort of kindled the fire under my latent literary ambitions. A young man who is now a member of one of our local Brotherhoods in the mill here, but who not so long ago was a clerk in one of our chain stores, was talking with me in regard to the organization of the store clerks, and what had taken place when last that noble stunt was tried. He said:

"You know that a lot of us went to those meetings that were held and afterward we heard about it. Oh, nothing direct, but just the same it was made clear that we were to 'lay off.' Nothing direct that you could pin them to, but you know how they will do things of that kind and not leave any doubt in your mind as to what they are talking about."

Sure, sure, I know; and so does every other fellow who ever did any organizing work. That innocuous, inoffensive method of being venial, yet vicious.

I remember that at that time one of the managers of a chain store had shown more than usual interest in the starting of the organization and I suppose—for I can do nothing else—that it was a happy coincidence that he was removed to another locality just at this time. Be it said here, to the everlasting credit of our local merchants, that most of them were very much in favor of the organization of the clerks, or at any rate did not offer much opposition, if any. Since that time, more than one has stated he thought it would be a good thing and from the standpoint of regulating closing hours and days off, and in many other ways it would be of as much advantage to the employer as to the help.

So long as that perfidious minority can exert their prolific and odious influence to intimidate their employes, just so long will those who see the light be kept in darkness. Just so long as this State goes without a Labor Relations Act, just so long will the State be denying a goodly share of our workers their full measure of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Without protection, the fair must compete with the unfair and trust to public opinion to help, but to most of us the price sign in the window is all we see. We do not take into consideration that the man who hands us the goods may be underpaid and overworked, that he dare not try to better his conditions for fear of the loss of his job, and when you boil these facts all down, you find that the day of slavery is not past and gone.

Today we have thousands of young men and women who are working for "coffee and doughnuts", and they do not and cannot get away from it, for if they quit they have not enough to go out and look for another job. For them, I ask every clear-thinking man and women to take into consideration the enactment of legislation that will give them the right to organize that they may better their conditions, and at last start to live. Let us set free the last of our slaves!

* * *

MEN AND MACHINES

One hears a lot about this subject, but we have had a modern miracle take place before our eyes here in Millinocket in the last few days.

Last year the Great Northern Paper Company put in a new paper machine to take the place of their old No. 1. Now, as this is being written, there are men at work setting up another new machine to take the place of old No. 2.

Sunday morning, February 23rd, old No. 2 was making her last roll of paper and as the last reel came off the boys swung it over to where the winder had been moved ahead and set it down on the machine ready to wind off. Monday morning, the old No. 2 paper machine was gone, but the last reel of paper still rested where it was and was not wound off until later in the day.

A week later, or Monday, March 3rd, men entering the paper room to go to work once again saw a paper machine where old No. 2 had been, and it looked as if it was as ready to run as the others in the room, upon first glance. This was not the case, however, but before another Monday rolls around we are told it will be in operation.

For those who know paper machines this will be more than interesting, and to the general public it should present a true picture of United States industry. This miracle is not the machine—although that in itself is very wonderful and modern—it is the men of other crafts working night and day to make another milestone in paper making history, and to give the lie to the tale that the paper industry is a dying industry in the United States. To those who would say that, the Great Northern Paper Company and the men of Millinocket hurl this modern miracle in the form of a challenge.

* * *

GETTING READY FOR JUNE CONVENTION

After all, June 13th is not so far away, and to those of us who are active in the work of the State Federation of Labor, it is the date of our annual convention.

The Millinocket Central Labor Union has been holding special meetings to help prepare for the coming convention, and at this writing there are committees working out the various plans. One thing we are all praying for is good weather. The last time the State convention was held in Millinocket, it might as well have been held in a rain barrel.

Those who have never been up here in this neck of the woods have a real surprise in store, and for those who have, I only need to say, "Just ask them!"

(I think this little plug should be worth a five-spot from the Chamber of Commerce.)

Here's One Employer in Maine Who Is "Tickled to Death" When His Help Leaves for Other Employment

John Fitzgerald, Maine's WPA Administrator, Who Prepares Workers for Re-employment, Highly Commended for Manner in Which Difficult Task Has Been Administered—Job at Present is to Provide Workers for Defense Program.

By ALBERT N. TARDIF.

Found: An employer who is happy when his employes quit to go to work for other employers.

He is John Fitzgerald, Maine Works Program Administrator. And happy he should be, for that is the primary purpose of the WPA—to reclaim workers from the army of unemployed and prepare them for re-employment in private industry. The more help he loses to others, the better is his record.

Mr. Fitzgerald, himself, appeared to be on his way to another job last Winter. The City of Bangor considered Mr Fitzgerald when it was in the market for a city manager. Nothing came of it. He has been with WPA from the beginning, starting as assistant administrator and advancing to administrator when that post was vacated by Albert Abrahamson. He is a World War veteran, and served as a first corporal in the home town Legion Post. Hailing from Bath, busy shipbuilding city, he realizes the importance of an adequate supply of skilled labor for national defense industries.

AIDS NATIONAL DEFENSE

He is doing his share to keep a steady flow of men to defense jobs wherever they are needed. In cooperation with the U. S. Commissioner of Education, John N. Studebaker, the WPA is supplying from its rolls men and women who have had experience in certain skills, for "refresher courses" at local high schools. This program already has helped hundreds find work at the trade they had followed before the depression forced them into the ranks of the unemployed. Years of idleness have caused these workers to lose a portion of their skills. The refresher courses enable them to recover their skill and start them on the road to better-paying jobs.

Mr. Fitzgerald's relations with Labor have been satisfactory. When rumors had it that he was leaving his present post, Horace E. Howe, president of the Portland Central Labor Union, commented: "Bangor's gain will be Labor's loss."

The WPA program has been so extensive that it is impossible to do justice in this short article. Much of the criticism in the past which has been directed at that agency has blinded us to the many accomplishments which should be credited to it. Millions of dollars have been spent on roads and airports. Many fine school buildings have been built as WPA projects. No one foresaw that these projects would come to have military significance. The schools provided facilities for craft training courses. It was not necessary to start from the ground up. Valuable time has been saved. In addition to men assigned from WPA rolls, the Army and other agencies are using WPA-built schools to educate and train men for responsible jobs.

GOOD ROADS VITAL

Now that the Army is being mechanized and motorized, the importance of better roads is becoming clearer. The "blitz" way of making war makes good roads imperative if we are to have adequate defense. Mr. Fitzgerald is cooperating with the War Department and the Maine Highway Department to provide this State with an extensive road-building program.

The unprecedented peril facing America has forced us to expand our airport building program. Here, again, WPA has had experience which is growing of inestimable value. Like the maxim quoted by Poor Richard in 1758, "For want of a nail, the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe, the horse was lost; for want of a horse, the rider was lost; for want of a rider, the battle was lost."

For want of men experienced in airport designing and construction, we might find ourselves fighting a losing battle against time. But WPA is filling the need nicely. Airport building has been one of its major programs. Trained engineers have found employment with other Federal agencies. Civil Aeronautics Authority, the Federal aviation agency, has hired some of Mr. Fitzgerald's men.

Until a year ago, emphasis in airport construction was principally in connection with their value as air transport terminals. Today the military importance of airfields is recognized by all. Maine, being the northeast corner of the United States, and believed by experts to be the most likely point of invasion by any foreign powers choose to attempt such a fatal move, has been chosen as the site for more than 30 airports. These range from smaller fields to the Bangor air base, where hundreds of planes will be based.

AIRPORTS AID ARMY

The building of airports involves the cooperation of many agencies. The whole program revolves around WPA. Mr. Fitzgerald is in the thick of it all. WPA does the preliminary work. The city or state government sponsors the job, unless the airport is to be strictly an Army field, in the latter case the Army supervises everything. But the CAA steps into the picture if the field is to be used by transport planes, as well as private planes. But here, again, the War Department surveys the field for its possible military importance.

The Weather Bureau has also benefited by the WPA program. The Administration building at the Portland airport, a WPA project, houses the expanded Portland Weather Bureau. Another agency to acquire new headquarters through the cooperation of WPA is the Maine Publicity Bureau. Its home at the end of St. John Street is one of the first WPA building projects in Portland.

Sears, Roebuck Opens New Lewiston Store

Sears, Roebuck & Company opens its newest Maine store this week in Lewiston, which is one of the largest establishments of this national organization in New England. It makes the fourth Sears store in this State, others being located in Augusta, Bangor and Portland.

The new Lewiston store is located next to the central bus terminal, and a story on this new store by Manager Golder will appear in the next issue of The Labor News.

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE LABOR NEWS! HAS IT EXPIRED? LOOK UP YOUR LAST RECEIPT; THAT TELLS THE STORY!

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G-E's 10-Star Storage Features provide proper preservation for every type and kind of food. You can now take full advantage of bargain days at the market, and your food dollars stretch farther than ever.

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* * *

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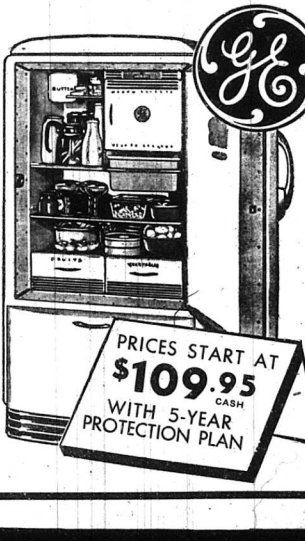

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WATERVILLE

Legal Affairs Committee Asked to Favor Bill Providing Pensions For City Policemen and Firemen

Passage of a bill providing for pensions for members of the Police and Fire Departments of the City of Waterville, was advocated before the Legal Affairs Committee by Representatives Leonel E. Rodrigue and Roland J. Poulin, Democrats, both of Waterville.

Rep. Rodrigue declared that Waterville was in the best financial condition it had experienced for years. "The police department membera," he said, "get but one day off a month. The fire department is the poorest paid in the State. Members of the latter department start work when they are hired, and stop when discharged. Members of these two essential departments should be provided with some measure of security when too old to longer serve."

The committee was informed by Representative Poulin that the present bill proposed a "voluntary" pension system for the employes affected. Under the terms of the bill, he said members of either department could retire at 60, or might elect to remain in the service until 65. The initial fund to establish the system would be appropriated by the City of Waterville.

Supporting the bill was Judge Cyril M. Joly of the Waterville Municipal Court, who said the bill would attract a better quality of men to the service.

Edmund M. Sweeney, city solicitor of Waterville, voiced qualified opposition. "Not to the spirit of the bill but to its procedure," he said. "The citizens of Waterville should first be made aware of what the bill purported to do, before its adoption by the Legislature."

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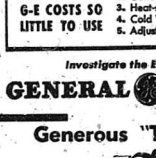

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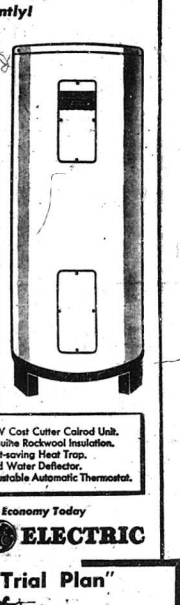

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FRIENDLY TO LABOR

Legislative Notes

(Continued from Page 2)

ment Commission is appointed by the Governor.

BILL TO AMEND SALES ACT

A bill to amend the Unfair Sales Law, enacted two years ago to prohibit the sacrifice sale of goods for the purpose of exterminating competition, was favored by the Judiciary Committee. The measure provides that any advertisement by retailers or wholesalers offering goods at less than cost would be prima facie evidence of law violations. There was no opposition. Supporting the bill was the Maine Food Council, and several others.

DOGS VERSUS LIVESTOCK

State records indicate that upwards of 70,000 owners of dogs will procure licenses for such animals during 1941. This is said to be some 3,000 more than for the previous year. Figures are easily verified from the fact that the number of dog tags applied for record the exact number of licenses to be issued. Official clerks in 22 cities and nearly 500 towns have been receiving their requisitions for tags made in anticipation of the deadline due-date.

For the last four years, the dog tax has been administered by the State Agricultural Department, which has resulted in stricter supervision and better enforcement of the law. Good results have been observed, both in the lower number of unlicensed dogs and the simultaneous encouragement to the breeding of livestock.

Predatory dogs, preying upon sheep and cattle, have been one of the handicaps of the livestock industry. The close cooperation between dog owners and local and state officials, for eliminating unlicensed dogs, is the objective sought.

POLL TAXES FOR WOMEN

"Should women, since they are citizens with common voting rights, be obliged to pay poll taxes? If not, why not?"

That question came before the Legislative Committee on Taxation in a recent public htaring, and strong arguments were presented on both sides. The proposed tax of $5.00 for women is suggested to be applied to reduction of levies on real estate. The present poll tax for men is $3.00.

In presenting the bill, Rep. Charles H. Holman of Dixfield said it would provide the State with $640,000 annually. The bill also contains a clause making it mandatory to have paid the tax before voting in municipal elections.

Another bill proposed exempting service men from payment of poll taxes during the period of their Federal enlistment. No opposition was recorded.

A bill to restrict the school tax in organized territory to 10 per cent above the State average for the previous year was heard without opposition.

LEGALIZING BEANO IS PROPOSED

Municipal Judge Montague Young of Old Orchard, told the Legislative Committee that a bill to legalize beano contained "great technical loopholes". He declared that the bill would lend facility to racketeering. Certain representatives of seasonal fairs and amusement enterprises were the main sponsors of the measure, which drew opposition from Rev. Frederick W. Smith of Waterville, and Rev. P. J. Clifford of Randolph, both of whom were severe in their criticism of the proposed legislation.

TO TAX EXEMPT RED CROSS

Unanimously, the House passed and sent to the Senate a bill to exempt the American Red Cross, and its local chapters, from municipal taxation in Maine. The special work of humanitarian relief which these agencies engage in, was advanced as meriting special consideration, especially in times of national emergency.

Real and personal property owned by the Red Cross and utilized only for the conduct of their customary activities, would be made tax free, if the bill meets final approval.

In and Out Of The News

(Continued from Page 2)

planes. The date for starting construction has not yet been announced.

LARGE PAYROLLS IN PORTLAND

Nothing stimulates local community business and economic activity like the disbursement of large and steady payrolls. Portland is fortunate in that respect as it is known that manufacturing companies in the greater Portland area disbursed almost five and a half million dollars in wages during the past year. This is based on information from the local Chamber of Commerce.

It is stated that an average of 4,200 workers in that district were paid an average yearly wage of over $1,300. A factual survey of wage results, based on records obtained from thirty manufacturing concerns, also showed consistent gains throughout industry in general. With the stepping up of the defense program, these records may be materially bettered during the progress of 1941.

RAISING $2,000,000 IS TAX PROBLEM

In an address before the Portland Rotary Club recently, Senator Lauren M. Sanborn declared that: "Spending money is one thing; raising it, by whatever means, is quite another." Invariably, it brings up the subject of taxes, always a hazboo to legislators and citizens at well.

Senator Sanborn, who is chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee, said that the Maine Legislature had the problem of raising two million dollars, without at the same time taking it out of the pockets of anybody! The Senator was evidently indulging in a little irony at the expense of those who propose costly legislative policies but never accompany them with concurrent legislation for defraying the expense of the same. He said he believed it would be well, first, to total up all the appropriation bills. When that has been done, to defer action until the Taxation Committee can prepare a report as to what money can actually be made available. When that has been ascertained, the appropriation bills can then be considered—in the light of the real amount of taxes which it is possible to count upon—not before.

MOTORISTS' GAS TAXES REACH IMMENSE TOTALS

It is stated that since the initial imposition of a tax on gasoline, which is said to have been supplied in Oregon in 1919, the aggregate sum of ten billion dollars has been collected in this manner. Moreover, reports of Federal authorities show that more than half of the automobile-owning families in the United States have incomes of less than $30 a week. For that reason, gas taxes weigh heavily upon them; but they do not seem to mind it.

Following the wake of Oregon, the gasoline tax was adopted by all the States. In 1932, the Federal government, sensing a rich field of revenue, imposed a duplicating tax, the rate of which was increased in 1940. The combined Federal and State taxes are now said to be 46 per cent of the retail selling price of gasoline.

But an unperceived benefit has resulted to the nation at large! The money was largely spent upon construction of good roads and highways. These are fitting into the present system of national defense—in facilitating transportation which otherwise would be dangerously handicapped.

ELMER N. BACHELER DIES IN HOSPITAL

Elmer N. Bacheler, long a leader in civic affairs in Portland and prominently identified with the grocery business for over half a century, died recently at a Portland hospital. He was born at Palermo on May 22, 1868, and come to Portland in his early youth.

He was always much interested in the growth and progress of his adopted city and lent freely of his time and energies to good effect. For a considerable time he was interested in the Portland Board of Trade and its successor, the Chamber of Commerce. He was also a charter member of the Federal Loan and Building Association and a member of the Settlers' Club.

For the local Boys' Club, Mr. Bacheler always maintained an active and cooperative interest, serving as a director since 1917. In the campaign to raise funds for the erection of the present clubhouse, Mr. Bacheler contributed valuable aid and assistance. A long and full life, honorably closed.

Wage-Hour Unit is Named for Rubber Products

Washington, D. C., Mar. 8 (AFL).—Gen. Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage-Hour Division of the Department of Labor, announced the appointment of a committee of fifteen for the rubber products manufacturing industry, with authority to recommend minimum wages up to 40 cents an hour for the employes. Of the 130,000 workers in the industry, it is estimated that approximately 10,000 are now paid less than 40 cents an hour.

The committee consists of an equal number of representatives of employers, employes and the public. Arthur T. Martin, dean of the law school, Ohio State University, heads the committee. Frank P. Fenton, director of organization, American Federation of Labor is one of the employes' representatives.

BEST WISHES

To The

Maine State Federation of Labor

And Its Affiliated

Maine Council of Paper Mill Unions

From

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RALPH O. BREWSTER

of Maine

AMOCO GREETS YOU!

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LEWISTON

Edmond Lambert, Lewiston's Mayor, Has Fine Legislative Record and Will Make City a Splendid Executive

By ALBERT N. TARDIF

In the person of Edmond J. Lambert, Lewiston will have the services of a Mayor whose knowledge of social conditions has been acquired through the "school of hard knocks" and discouraging personal experience.

Mayor Lambert, a former Lewiston High football star, now serving his second term as Representative in the Legislature, will not have to read books or magazines, or study reports of investigating committees to learn that the average family needs all the protection it now enjoys through the various social security programs. He appreciates how great is the necessity of assisting the dependent aged. He has fought in the House of Representatives for more liberal assistance for them. He understands how Social Security survivors' insurance has lightened the burden of widows and orphans. He has seen retired workers enjoy their declining years because they are no longer dependent on their children for support—thanks to Social Security Old-Age Insurance payments.

His Honor is a former Portland newspaperman, and has engaged in varied activities, including insurance clerking, and tax collecting. He never lost his good-natured smile through all the depression, and wherever he went, whatever he undertook to do, Mayor Lambert always had time for a friendly "hello". On election day, more than 4,000 Lewistonians expressed their confidence in the man with the friendly "hello".

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Nation Is Destined to Experience High Speed Industrial Activity

(Continued from Page 1)

suddenly, our present vast scope of defense operations might very likely cease shortly thereafter. The result would be a tremendous falling-off in industrial activity, and another period of stalemate and readjustment, in the industrial sense, following the example of the first World War. Indeed, we are still suffering from the aftereffects of that Titanic contest. The present conflict promises to have conclusions no less fraught with problems of vastness and complexity. This is one of the plain deterrents which business men, bankers and large-scale industrialists cannot possibly banish from their astute and mathematically controlled minds.

Conceding that industrial activity has its present main basis upon war defense industry and the necessities growing out of it, that may be put down as an immediately favorable aspect; but, with an inevitable aftermath and balancing up, which the public is most strongly disinclined to see and recognize. Nevertheless, it hangs over business as a cloud and must be dispelled by the logic of future events—growing out of the problematical issue of the present war in Europe.

THE LABOR SITUATION

The defense program has, of course, made immense demands upon all branches of labor—skilled, semi-skilled and common labor. Unrest and unquiet there has been in the ranks of labor, for easily recognizable causes. But, the scale is tipping away from an increase in such difficulties. This is under the ameliorative influence of the collective bargaining policy, now growing to be more and more voluntarily adopted in industry, generally.

In this regard, the American Federation of Labor, in its Monthly Survey of general business conditions throughout the country, has some pertinent and reassuring statements to make. It notes that, whereas the press, in some instances, has magnified the extent and importance of strikes in national defense industries, such occurrences — taking the country as a whole and the great number of workers represented—is but a small deterrent factor. Actually, the time lost during strikes in American industry last year was very small. It amounted to less than two hours per worker for the entire year, or scarcely more than a third of the time lost in 1939. Compared with previous records, it was less than in any of the last twelve years, except 1929 and 1930.

The present trend in legislation, as in industry, is to provide adequate procedures to forestall cessation of work until the basic questions at issue can be examined and impartially put before the public. Thereafter, it is confidently expected that public sentiment, being in possession of the full and impartial facts, will operate to harmonize the situation, without loss of prestige or the essential rights of either of the conflicting parties.

RETAIL TRADE REPORTS FAVORABLE

This branch of industry has always been regarded as one of the main indications of the national business and general economic situation. Such trade reports are consistently favorable, and show that good buying power exists with every prospect that it will be increased as the year advances. This may be due to the vast amount of Government money disbursed in payrolls to the various industries engaged in national defense productive activities; but the cash register rings up, confidently, which is sufficient for the current day. It may be pre-war prosperity, but it is no less effective, in its fiscal and economic influences.

SECURITIES MARKET

The main securities market, immemorially represented by the Stock Exchange, is taken by some observers to indicate that business is deprived of one of its traditional supports — the means of raising capital quickly, smoothly and in practically unlimited volume. That era has, for the last few preceding years, almost ceased to exist. Governmental investigation has revealed a great many errors of the past. These have been corrected, and new restrictions have been imposed for the future issuance of securities of all kinds. Bankers and brokers have been closely restricted in what they may, and may not, do. As a result, the old-time zest and spirit of free and daring personal adventure has departed from the stock market. Exchange seats, once worth $600,000, are selling under $30,000. What does this indicate?

What has been known as experimental, or venture-risking capital, has long lain dormant. Taxes have risen to a point that causes those of large income to greatly abate their former ceaseless quest of added gains. The prospect of having greatly expanded industrial plants lying idle after the war emergency has passed, (which would represent a huge capital loss to stockholders) has also caused major scale industry to pause, undecidedly. The Government, realizing this situation, has advanced cooperative plans for amortization of such new plant expansions, due to war defense orders. This may remove the brakes on industrial capital expansion, now lagging.

The best estimates place at six million persons the number of those who must still remain jobless, even "after" taking into account the future projected defense industries, and the consequent absorption of millions of hitherto idle labor. This factor seems to be the one big cloud in the economic sky—one that still awaits solution. But in a country of such vast resources as ours, there should be no doubt of the ability and determination of our statesmen, and leaders in labor, industry and finance, to make use of that vast "potential" asset of man-power.

Not to find employment for this vast reservoir of productive enterprise simply means that these idle people must be supported by the labor of the normally employed. This is an economic fallacy which will carry its own solution, in its own inevitable way, in time.

Stricken With Illness

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meeting of workers, at which he was one of the speakers. He was removed to his Boston home a week ago, and the report from his Beacon street office yesterday was that he is doing as well as can be expected.

During his absence, the Boston office is in charge of Miss Rose Sullivan, general organizer for the A. F. of L., who, in a telephone conversation yesterday, said hoped are entertained Mr. Murphy may be able to resume his duties within a few weeks, but questioned if he will be able to rejoin the organizing force now engaged in the Ford campaign in Detroit.

Facing the Facts

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vast appetite for power. He works quietly behind the scenes. He has a whole string of columnists on his payroll whose articles are published in many papers outside of the Scripps-Howard chain. Thus, by influencing these columnists and by directing their thoughts in any direction he chooses, Mr. Howard manages to get his propaganda printed almost throughout the American press. Of course, most of these columnists will deny taking orders from Howard and in all fairness I don't believe they do take orders. Roy Howard, a newspaperman himself, is not as crass as all that. He works more subtly. He uses the power of suggestion. He employs flattery. He takes the boys out on parties on his yacht, fills them up with the best of food and liquor, makes them feel like big shots. And then, when they're prime, Howard will get the boys together into little huddles and start talking business. When it comes to matters of policy, he doesn't let on that he is the one who pulls the strings. He is clever enough to make the boys believe that they are making the decisions. So they leave the yacht full of inspiration, ambition and spirits and go out like good little boys and do the job Mr. Howard wanted them to do all along.

Now it would be a mistake to underestimate the power of the corps of syndicated columnists and hireling editorial writers controlled by Roy Howard. It would be just as serious a mistake to underestimate their influence on public opinion as it was for Mr. Howard to overestimate it in the last political campaign. Mr. Howard thought his boys, under his expert direction, were influential enough to put over Mr. Willkie as President of the United States.

THE ANTI-LABOR CAMPAIGN

Howard himself, was not exactly sold on Willkie but he thought he could sell him to the American people. He regarded Willkie as another of his boys. When Willkie recently kicked over the traces and refused to obey Howard's orders to oppose the lend-lease bill, Howard reportedly threatened to break him politically.

All of this brings us up to date and we now have to consider Mr. Howard's present campaign against organized Labor. We must consider this in the light of the undenied charge that Mr. Howard is the "master mind" behind the scenes of the forces of appeasement in this country.

This little man with big ideas sees himself as the last champion and defender of capitalism in America. Therefore, American involvement in the European conflict frightens him as a threat to capitalism. He fears that Labor will gain greater participation and influence in the affairs of Government, as it has in Great Britain. That is why—to get back to the beginning—he has sicced Pegler and the rest of his boys against the American Federation of Labor. That is why they are all now clamoring for legislation to restrict Labor.

They do it artfully. They say it is in the interests of national defense. They say employers are regulated by law, why not labor? They say the nation cannot afford strikes so we must have laws forbidding strikes.

Their arguments are stupid, short-sighted and easily punctured. We intend to devote our next column entirely to calling the turn on them. For the time being we would like to make just two observations.

The first is a warning. It is directed not only to Mr. Howard and his boys but to the press generally. It is this—the day that Labor in America is denied the right to strike, that day will the freedom of the press be also denied and all our other freedoms become meaningless.

The second is a prayer of thankfulness. It is right for Labor and for all America to thank God that we have in the White House in these times a true believer in democracy and a true friend of Labor who cannot and will not be stampeded into any policy which leads to economic servitude for American workers.

Bricklayers' President

(Continued from Page 1)

need for public works" to supplement defense activities, but asserted that H. R. 2570, as it now stands, would result in "a defective and wasteful program."

She urged that the bill be revised as follows:

1. Specific and unequivocal requirement for the maintenance of prevailing labor standards.

2. Administrative framework placing the responsibility for such public works program with the Federal Works Administrator, subject to the approval of the President.

3. A provision assuring standards of sound and permanent construction and of planning designed to achieve the maximum usefulness of each project to the community at the end of the emergency.

4. Provided these conditions are met an increase in authorization to $300,000,000.

Action Must Be Taken

(Continued from Page 1)

can be developed by means of taxation. The shift from war production to peace production will be fundamentally a shift from heavy industries such as iron and steel and munitions to consumer-goods industries.

"Such readjustments developed now in such a way as to make possible a reduction of the tax burden on consumption of goods and services could go a long way toward expanding the market for consumers' goods and stimulating their production.

PUBLIC WORKS PLANNING

"Planning of desirable peace-time public works should be done now so that work could be begun and employment assured on a peacetime public works program without delay.

"The Defense Housing Administration can render an outstanding service to the nation if it makes sure that almost of this defense housing becomes available for post-emergency use in low-income wage-earners and their families.

"The present program of factory allocation is guided almost exclusively by the immediate strategic, economic and sometimes even political considerations. Yet the allocation of new machinery and equipment for defense production should also be tested for the availability of the plant and equipment with a view to its maximum peace-time utilization in the post-emergency period. Unless this is done we shall be faced with the prospect of building a network of industrial communities which are certain to become ghost towns.

"Our great social security program should also undergo a careful revision so that through adequate tax contributions during the emergency period of intensive business activity sufficient reserves could be accumulated.

"This would make possible increased unemployment benefits over longer benefit periods in order to sustain the purchasing power at the beginning of the post-emergency period and to cushion the shock of sudden demobilization of the defense industries and the mass unemployment among defense workers."

Rutland Railroad Wkrs.

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week, while another section called for withdrawal of a December, 1938, wage cut.

The agreement provided, further, he said, that no "substantial" reduction of force could be inaugurated before consultation with employe representatives and that payment of back wages due employes, aggregating about $255,886, could be postponed until the agreement expires on April 1, 1942.

At that time, the payments may be made in such amounts as might prove feasible "without reducing the working capital of the road below the sum of $175,000," but if the working capital exceeds $285,000 within the two-year period, the amount in excess of that sum should then be paid to the employes, the agreement said.

The President appointed the mediation board on February 14 on the eve of a walkout the men had voted in protest of a ten to 30 per cent wage reduction order by Lucius G. Morphy, receiver for the railroad, which has been in financial difficulties for several years.

When informed of the settlement of the strike threat yesterday, Governor William H. Wills said:

"The news will be welcomed I know, by the whole State. The prosperity and well-being of our State is so dependent on the many benefits for which our transportation systems are responsible that we can ill afford to lose them."

Amazingly Strange

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the other Senators grouped around the horseshoe of desks which dot the room. The presiding officer rapped for attention; the clerk hastily gulped a glass of water and launched into the reading of a resolution that may well have made legislative history.

"Here and there a Senator could be noted lending, momentarily anyway, an attentive ear to the proposal. It faded off insipently enough once the clerk had passed the opening 'be it resolved' and 'whereases'. The resolution commended Congressman Foster Sarams of the Second New Hampshire Congressional district for his support of the President on all matters of national defense and aid to England and her allies.

"The first paragraph of the resolution was the last without tremendous import. The remaining paragraphs, which many of the Senators probably did not hear, having gone back to scanning their journals or conversing among themselves, placed them on record as favoring 'all out aid to England and her allies' and the drafting of able bodied men in war industries to be taken over by the government, on the same basis as they are now drafted for military service.'

"Another paragraph of this resolution which failed to create an iota of debate or comment from a single member of the Senate 'deplored strikes and threats of strikes in all establishments making materials for national defense and for goods going to England and that steps should be taken at once to put a stop to such conditions.'

"Only Senator Philip C. Heald of Wilton was sufficiently puzzled over the resolution to ask that it be read a second time, and when no member of the Senate even then rose to protest its passage the Wilton man went along with the majority.

"Apparently only the newspaperman present realized the significance of the brief action and after the meeting rushed over to its sponsor, Senator Joseph B. Perley of Lebanon, to ask him what lay behind the proposal.

"Perley talked frankly. Sure, he said, the government ought to draft workers at $1 a day for war-time industry work and regulate them the same as the army does drafted men are, he said, strikes ought to be outlawed in industries making war materials.

"In less than ten minutes the Senate had gone on record as being in favor of the government taking over essential war-time industry; conscripting men to work in these plants at a $1 per day rate and outlawing their right to protest or strike.

"The little man had scored a victory over a Senate which could not have realized what it was passing or it would not have permitted such an important resolution to go by without debate or consideration, placing them definitely on record as being in favor of a program which to some, at least, will be hard to explain when the story gets back home to their constituents.

"You can argue for hours how a representative body of men such as the Senate is, could let a resolution so fraught with potential dynamite go by without protest.

"The serious point is that it was done. It not only could but did happen. Perhaps the resolution is all right. That isn't the idea. That story has gone out over AP wires and will be printed in most of the newspapers of the country. It places one of the major legislative bodies of the state on record favoring government control of industry; conscripting of labor and outlawing of strikes.

"Brazenly advertised is the fact that one of the major legislative bodies of the state calmly tossed off, as one would a glass of Scotch, a resolution placing New Hampshire positively on the side of a nation headed toward totalitarianism.

"Somehow, we just don't think that the Senate action is a true picture of the feelings of a majority of residents of New Hampshire. At least not right at this moment.

"We haven't reached the point yet, regardless of what the Senate thinks, of tossing away some of our hard-fought rights because of a war scare. It doesn't show much thinking or judgment on the part of a legislative body which will take such action without due deliberation."

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